



# SECS

VOL.

3

## DEATH OF THE FAMILY



Collecting Batman v2 13-17, Batgirl v4 13-16,  
Catwoman v4 13-14, Suicide Squad v3 14-15,  
Batman & Robin v2 15-16, Detective Comics v2 15-16,  
Nightwing v3 15-16, Red Hood & the Outlaws 15-16,  
Teen Titans v4 15-16



# DEATH OF THE FAMILY

**He murdered Jason Todd, paralyzed Barbara Gordon and created more mischief and mayhem than any other villain in the DC Universe.**

**And he did it all for a laugh.**

**The Joker is the Dark Knight's greatest foe and deadliest adversary, but after gruesomely removing his own face in the pages of Detective Comics v2 #1, he remained absent from Gotham City for the past year - biding his time and planning for his next big punchline.**

**Now, the Joker's back - and he's set his sights on the entire Bat-Family.**

**Thanks to those who made the original releases:**

**Zone-Empire  
Nahga-Empire  
digital-Empire  
digital-TheGroup  
Megan-Empire**

**JK-Empire**

**G85-Empire**

Collection: Batman v2 13-17, Batgirl v4 13-16,  
Catwoman v4 13-14, Suicide Squad v3 14-15,  
Batman & Robin v2 15-16, Detective Comics v2 15-16,  
Nightwing v3 15-16, Red Hood & the Outlaws 15-16,  
Teen Titans v4 15-16

VOL

4



**GOTHAM CITY.**

**ISABEL'S APARTMENT...**

DETECTIVE,  
THIS WOMAN,  
**ISABEL ARDILA**,  
WAS FORCED AN  
OVERDOSE.

I NEED YOU  
TO **GET** HER TO  
THE HOSPITAL.

I'M **GOING**  
AFTER THE MAN  
RESPONSIBLE.

YOU CAN TELL  
YOUR MEN TO **STAND**  
**DOWN-OR I TAKE**  
THEM DOWN.

THREE  
SECONDS.  
YOUR CALL.

KID,  
SERIOUSLY.

YOU'RE  
WEARING  
A TOWEL.



**RED HEAD  
AND THE  
OUTLAWS**

JASON TODD, A FORMER ROBIN TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM.  
ROY HARPER, A SELF-PROFESSED "RECOVERING SUPER-HERO" TAKING IT ONE DAY AT  
A TIME. KORIAND'R, A SLAVE PRINCESS FROM ANOTHER WORLD WHO WILL NEVER BE  
CHAINED AGAIN. DON'T CALL THEM HEROES. DON'T CALL THEM A TEAM. CALL THEM...

*Starring In*

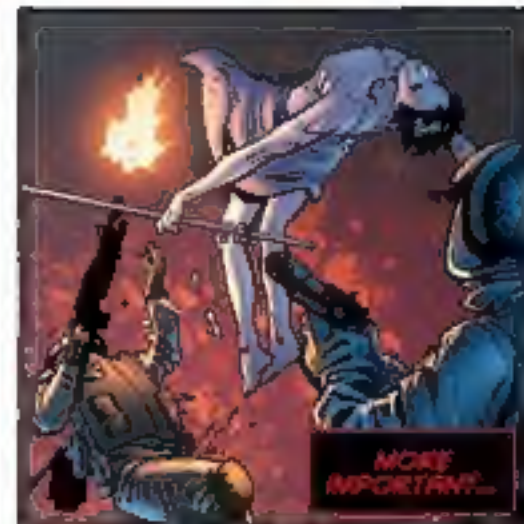
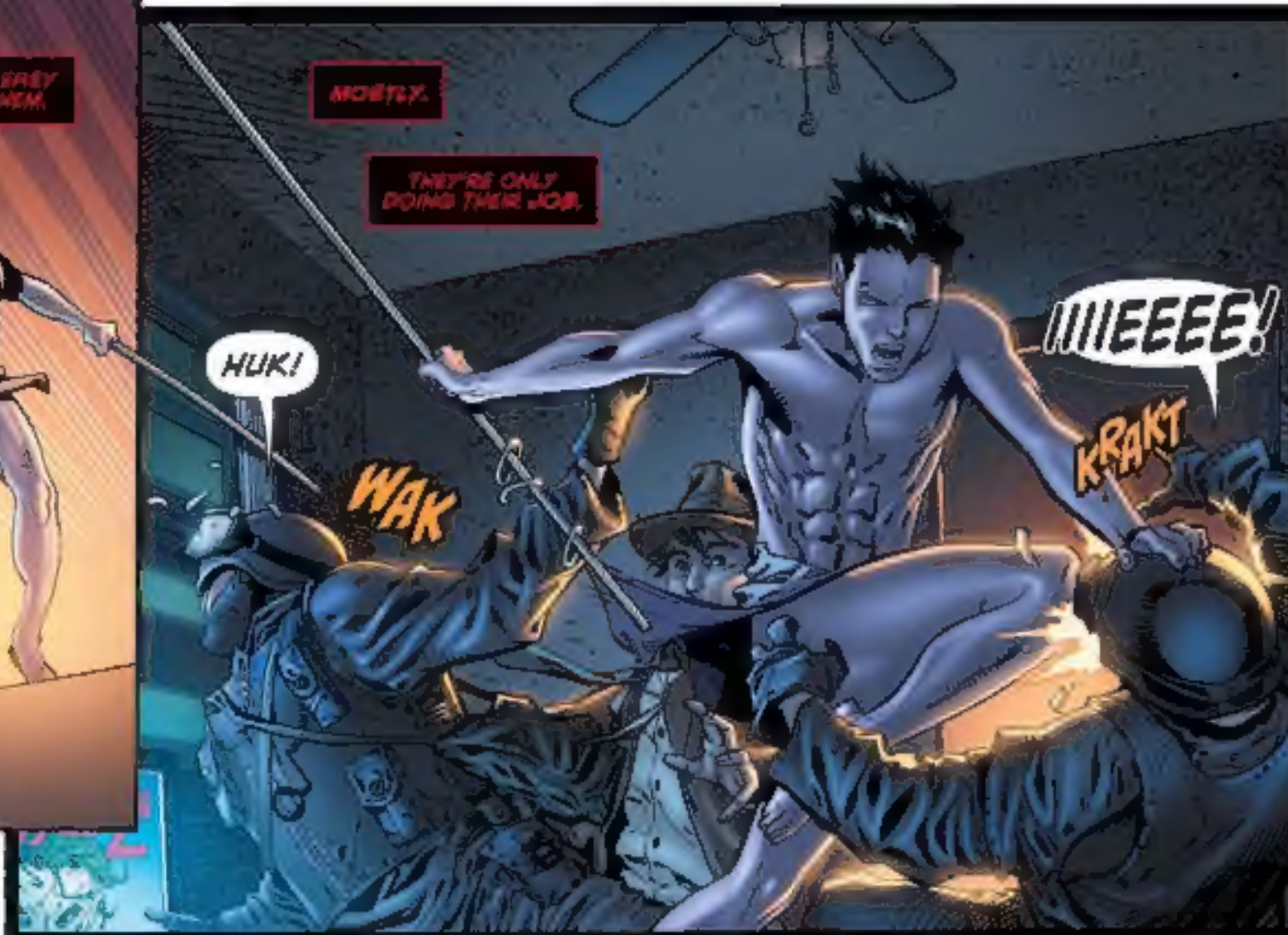
IT ONLY HURTS  
WHEN YOU

**LAUGH**

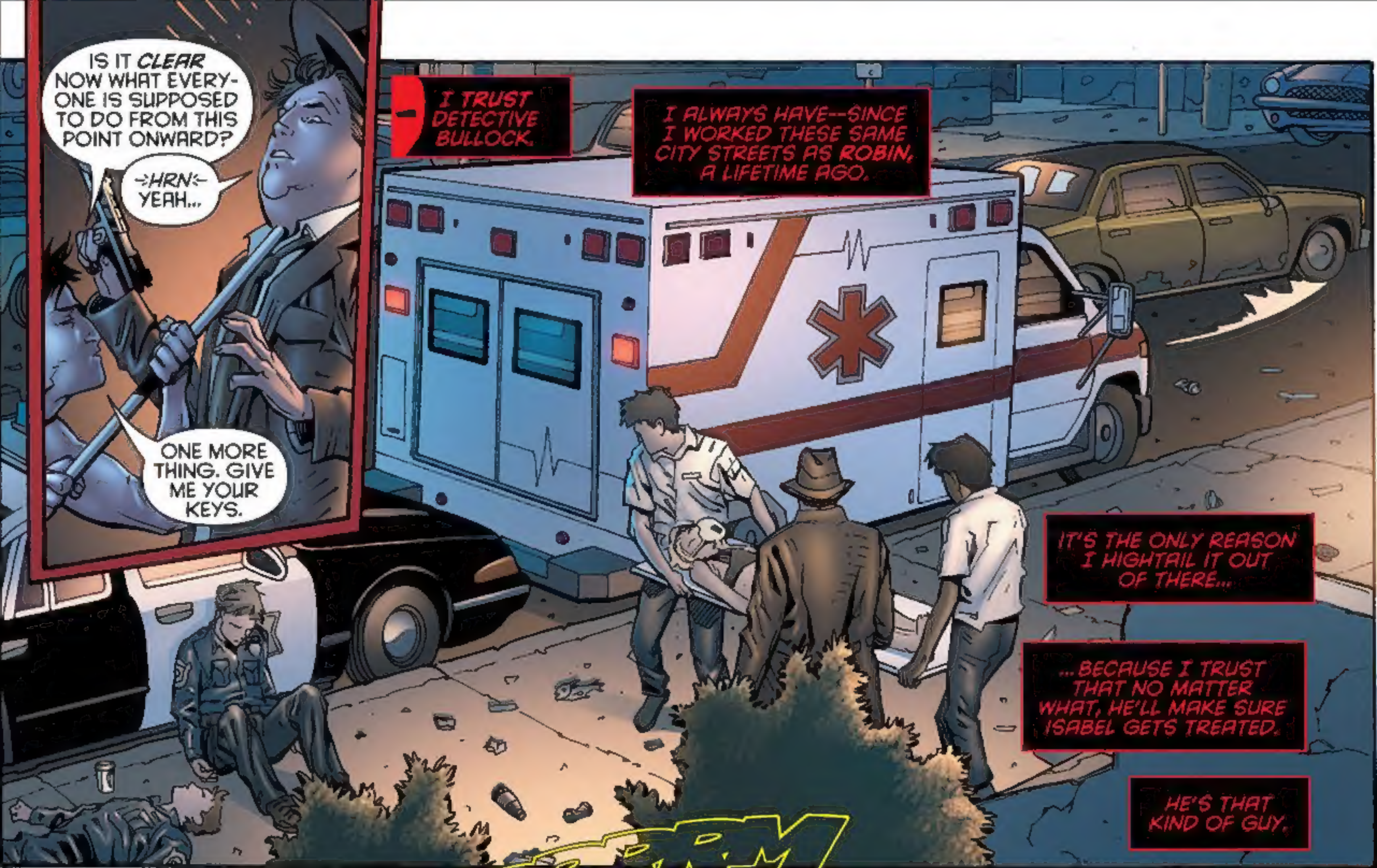
WRITTEN BY SCOTT LOBDELL  
PENCILS BY TIMOTHY GREEN II  
INKS BY WAYNE FAUCHER  
COLORS BY BLOND  
LETTERS BY TAYLOR ESPOSITO  
COVER BY GREG CAPULLO & FCO PLASCENCIA  
ASSISTANT EDITOR DARREN SHAN  
EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA

**DEATH OF THE FAMILY**









IS IT CLEAR  
NOW WHAT EVERY-  
ONE IS SUPPOSED  
TO DO FROM THIS  
POINT ONWARD?

→HRN→  
YEAH...

ONE MORE  
THING. GIVE  
ME YOUR  
KEYS.

I TRUST  
DETECTIVE  
BULLOCK.

I ALWAYS HAVE--SINCE  
I WORKED THESE SAME  
CITY STREETS AS ROBIN,  
A LIFETIME AGO.

IT'S THE ONLY REASON  
I HIGHTAIL IT OUT  
OF THERE...

...BECAUSE I TRUST  
THAT NO MATTER  
WHAT, HE'LL MAKE SURE  
ISABEL GETS TREATED.

HE'S THAT  
KIND OF GUY.

POW



I WAS ABLE TO GRAB  
MY UNIFORM ON THE  
WAY OUT THE DOOR.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE  
HELMET AT HOME. THIS IS  
WHAT I GET FOR TRYING TO  
PLAY CIVILIAN FOR A NIGHT.

BETWEEN THE LIGHTS,  
SIREN AND HORSE  
POWER OF THIS STOLEN  
POLICE CRUISER--

--I'LL BE BACK AT  
THE BATCAVE IN  
ABOUT SIX MINUTES.

NOT THAT THE  
LOT OF THEM  
EVER LIFTED A  
FINGER FOR ME--

--BUT I HAVE  
TO WARN  
THEM ABOUT  
THE JOKER.



HA HA

JOK-kak!

HO HO

SO  
PREDICTABLE.

HEE  
HEE

FSST

HA HO HO!

DAMN!



AT THAT MOMENT, HALF A CONTINENT AWAY...

THERE WAS A TIME,  
NOT LONG AGO,  
WHEN MY HOME WAS  
A LONELY PLACE.

BY DESIGN.

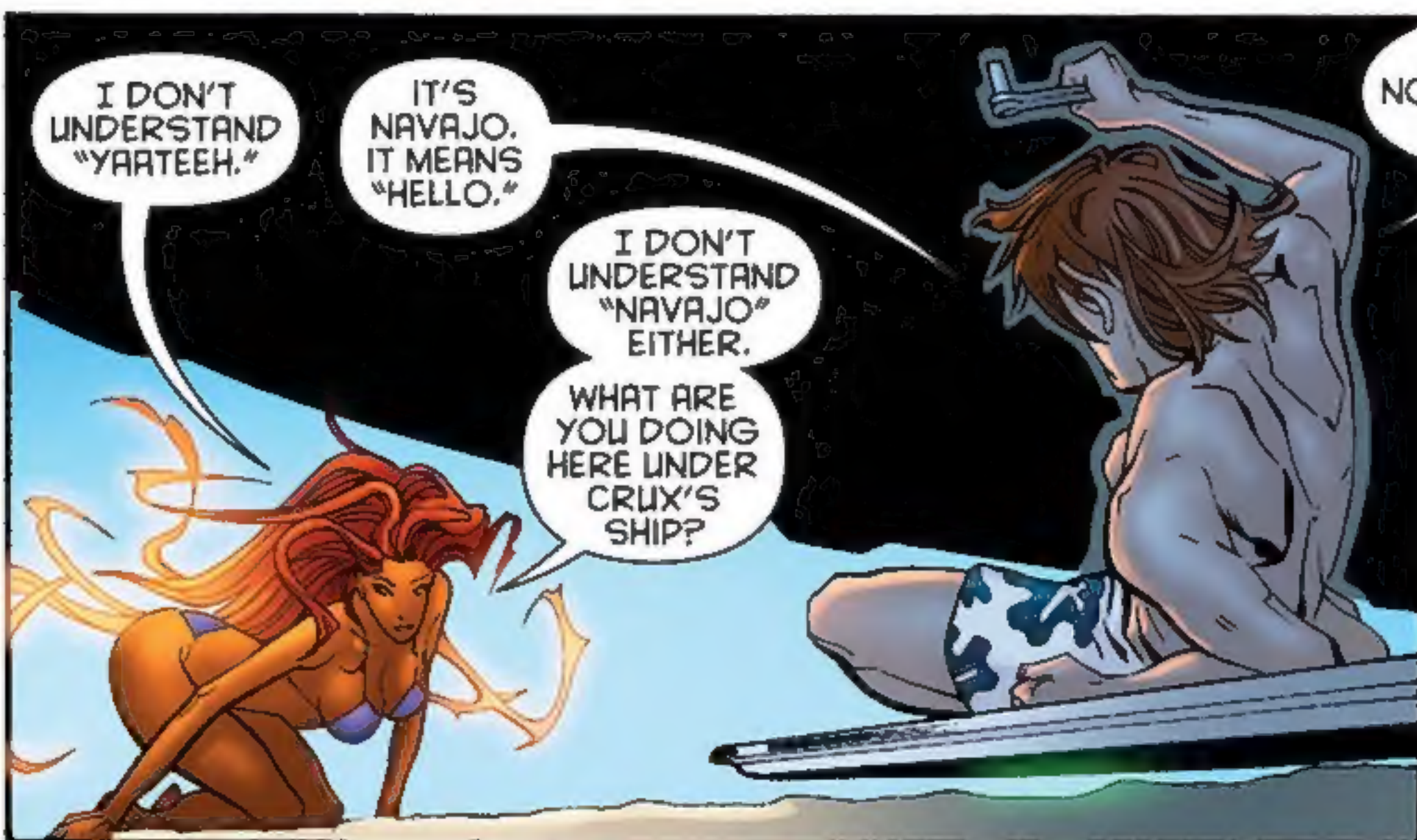
BUT JASON AND  
ROY FOUND THEIR  
WAY HERE.

I ENJOY IT  
THIS WAY  
MORE.



ROY?  
ARE YOU  
HERE?

YAATEEH,  
KORI.



I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
"YAATEEH."

IT'S NAVAJO.  
IT MEANS  
"HELLO."

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
"NAVAJO"  
EITHER.  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE UNDER  
CRUX'S  
SHIP?

WHEN WE WERE  
ONBOARD THE--YOUR SHIP--I  
NOTICED THAT THE FLUX CAPACITATORS  
WORKED ON AN ALTERNATING  
PULSE RHYTHM.

IT MADE ME  
REALIZE THAT IF I  
COULD REROUTE  
THEM THROUGH THE  
CORE AND DIRECT  
THE COORDINATES  
USING Q-  
MAPS...

...WE COULD  
GET AS CLOSE  
AS POSSIBLE  
TO INSTANT  
GEOPROPORTIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION.



WHEN I FIRST  
MET YOU, I WANTED TO  
LIE WITH YOU JUST TO  
SHUT YOU UP.

NOW, ALL I  
WANT TO DO IS  
LISTEN TO YOU TALK  
AND SHARE YOUR  
GENIUS WITH  
ME.

"GENIUS"?

OKAY,  
I'LL TAKE  
THAT.

AND I,  
YOU.





MEANWHILE...

BE HONEST IS  
THAT A CROWBAR  
THROUGH YOUR  
HEAD--

--OR ARE  
YOU JUST HAPPY  
TO SEE ME?!

HA-HA  
HO HO  
HA  
HEE HEE  
HA HO!

MY RED  
HOOD  
HELMET.

ONE OF  
MANY.

HOW DID  
JOKER GET IT--

--AND BRING  
IT, AND ME, TO  
GOD-ONLY-  
KNOWS-WHERE?

EVEN MORE  
DISTURBING...WHY  
CAN'T I MOVE SO  
MUCH AS A FINGER?

DON'T WORRY,  
YOU'RE NOT HAVING  
ONE OF THOSE OUT-OF-  
BODY MOMENTS.

THOUGH, I  
SUPPOSE, YOU  
WOULD KNOW THAT  
FEELING BETTER THAN  
ANYONE ELSE.  
HEE HEE.

YOU'VE BEEN INJECTED  
WITH A TOXIN THAT WILL  
KEEP YOU COMPLETELY  
PARALYZED FOR THE  
NEXT HOUR.

ONE  
MYSTERY  
SOLVED.

I WANT  
TO TRY OUT SOME  
NEW MATERIAL ON YOU,  
AND AS YOU CAN  
IMAGINE...



...I'M NOT  
REAL BIG ON  
HECKLING.

NOW, HAVE  
YOU HEARD THE ONE  
ABOUT THE COURT JESTER  
WHO SERVES HIS KING  
BY POINTING OUT--

--HE'S  
ONLY WASTING HIS  
TIME WITH THE ROYAL  
FAMILY?

YOU KNOW HOW I'M  
ALWAYS GOING OFF  
ABOUT THE TIME I  
WAS KILLED?

THIS WAS  
THE LUNATIC  
WHO DID IT.

AND HE'S HAD  
A BUG UP HIS  
BELFRY FOR  
BATMAN FROM  
DAY ONE.

TONIGHT,  
HE'S MADE IT  
PERSONAL.

MORE THAN  
BRUCE.

HE'S MADE  
IT ABOUT  
DICK, TIM.

BARBARA.  
EVEN DAMIAN.

REALLY?  
NOT EVEN A  
SMILE?

TOUGH  
CROWD! TOUGH  
CROWD!

WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
YOUR SENSE OF  
HUMOR, SON?

YOU AND I--  
WE WERE QUITE A  
TEAM IN OUR DAY,  
WEREN'T WE?

I'D WRITE  
THE MATERIAL.  
YOU'D READ YOUR  
LINES.

WHAT THE HELL  
IS HE TALKING  
ABOUT?

BUT YOU  
HAD TO GO AND  
IMPROVISE THE BIG  
FINALE, DIDN'T  
YOU?

NO!

CAN'T LET HIS  
NONSENSE  
GET TO ME.

HAVE TO  
CONCENTRATE  
ON WHAT'S REAL.

BUT PRACTICE  
MAKES PERFECT,  
I SUPPOSE.

SINCE YOU  
ARRIVED FOR  
REHEARSAL--

--WHY DON'T  
WE TAKE IT FROM  
THE TOP?!

THUD





LET'S NOT.

EH?!

WE WERE "APART" FOR SO LONG--

--JOKER DIDN'T REALIZE THAT AFTER I CAME BACK TO LIFE, I'D BEEN TRAINED BY DUCRA AND THE ALL-CASTE, HARD-ASS MONKS WHO PUT ME THROUGH THE KIND OF HELL THAT MADE ME WISH I HAD STAYED DEAD.\*

\*CHECK OUT RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS VOL 1 REDEMPTION FOR THE FULL STORY --ED.



THINGS LIKE PARALYTIC TOXINS MEAN NEXT TO NOTHING TO ME.

SPLENDID!

KIK



KRAK

BRAVO!



CHAKT

GOOD ONE!

RAGE?

RETRIBUTION?



STILL WORK FINE.



LET'S END THIS. NOW.







GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL...

I AIN'T BUYING IT.

GIRL'S GOT NO PRIORS.  
NO OTHER DRUGS IN THE APARTMENT.  
NO TRACK MARKS.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE REACHING, HARV.

TRYING TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR AN ADDICT. HERE'S HER CELL PHONE.

ME? I COULDN'T MUCH CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS "ISABEL."

ONE LESS JUNKIE ON THE STREETS.

YER COMPASSION IS A THING TO BEHOLD, OFFICER.

NOPE. NOT BUYING IT.

LEAVE A MESSAGE.

OR DON'T BEEP!

HMMM. REDIAL LAST CALL.

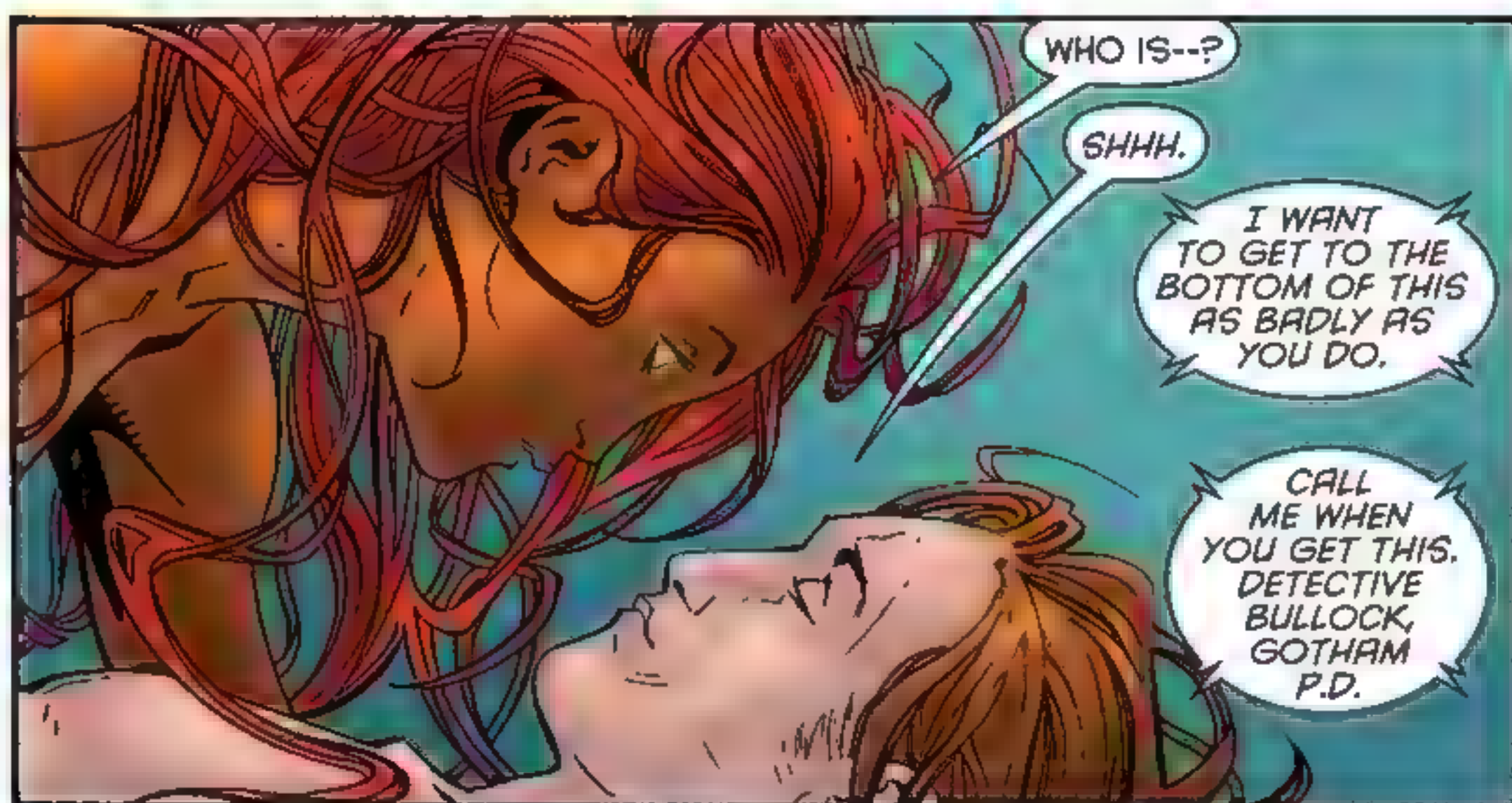
I'M GUESSING "J/FIRST CLASS" IS THE GUY IN ISABEL'S APARTMENT TONIGHT...



**BACK ON THE ISLAND...**

... THE ONE WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A SUPER VILLAIN BY TAKING ON THE ENTIRE G.C.P.D. IN A TOWEL.

IF YOU GET THIS, "J/FIRST CLASS," I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I THINK YOU WAS SET UP.

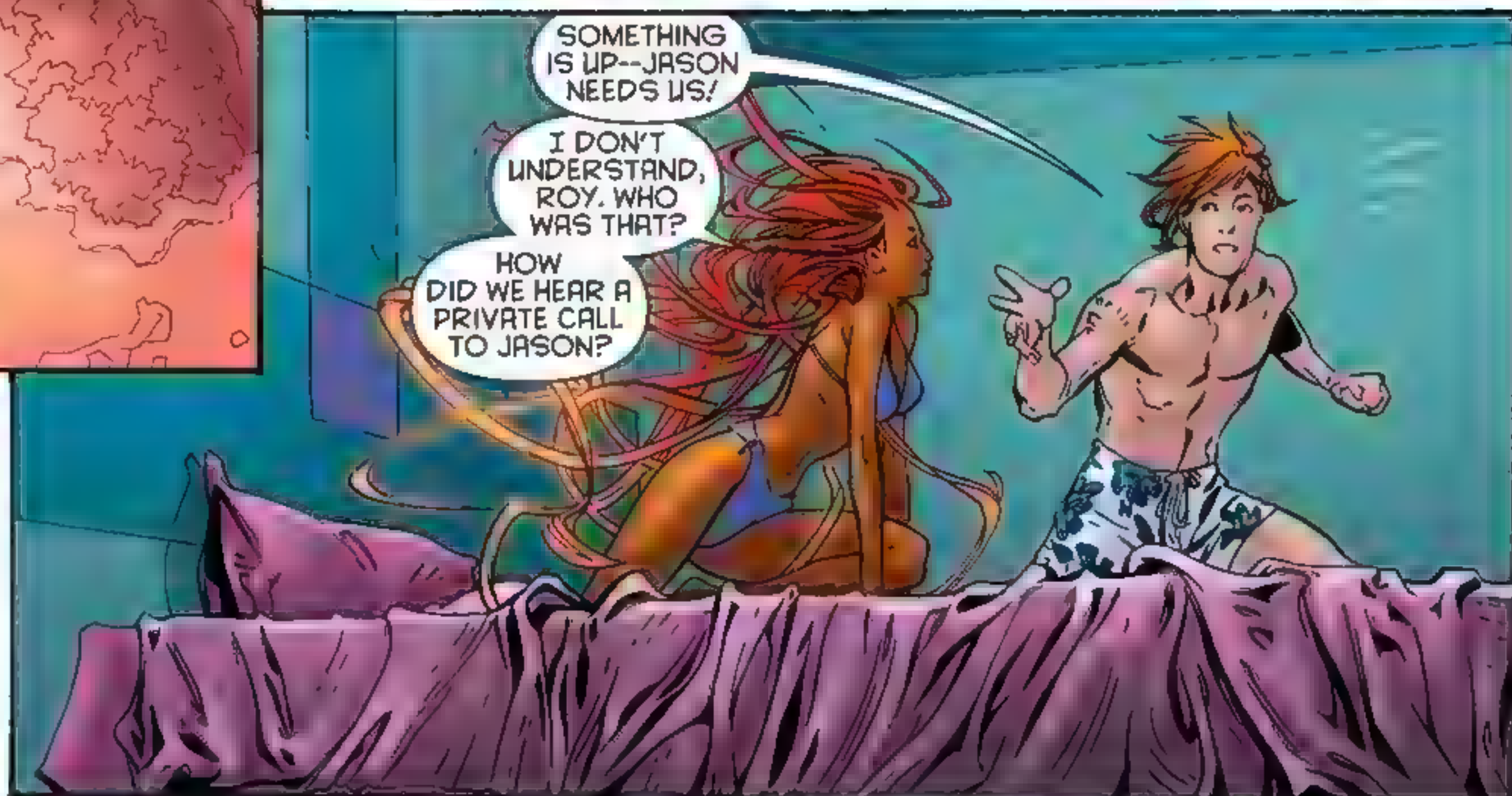
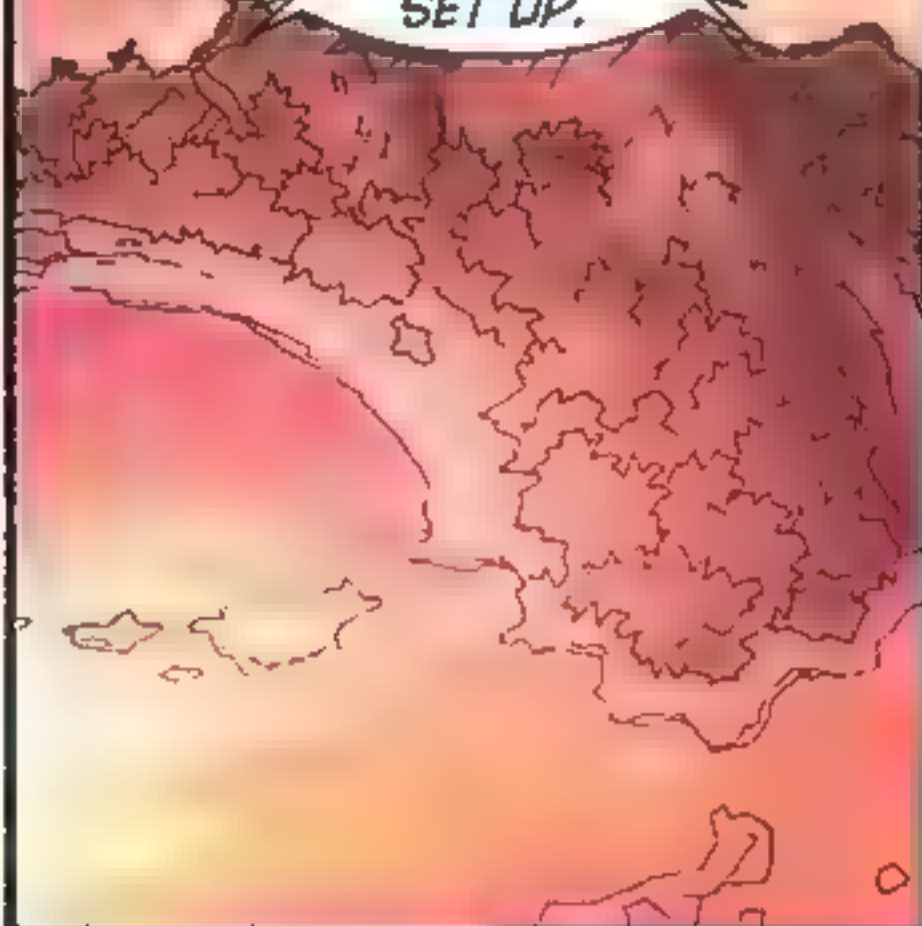


WHO IS--?

SHHH.

I WANT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS AS BADLY AS YOU DO.

CALL ME WHEN YOU GET THIS. DETECTIVE BULLOCK, GOTHAM P.D.



SOMETHING IS UP--JASON NEEDS US!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, ROY. WHO WAS THAT?

HOW DID WE HEAR A PRIVATE CALL TO JASON?



I SET CRUX'S OMNI-PHONE THING TO KEEP TRACK OF JASON'S CALLS--  
--TO FORWARD THE ONES THAT SOUND IMPORTANT.



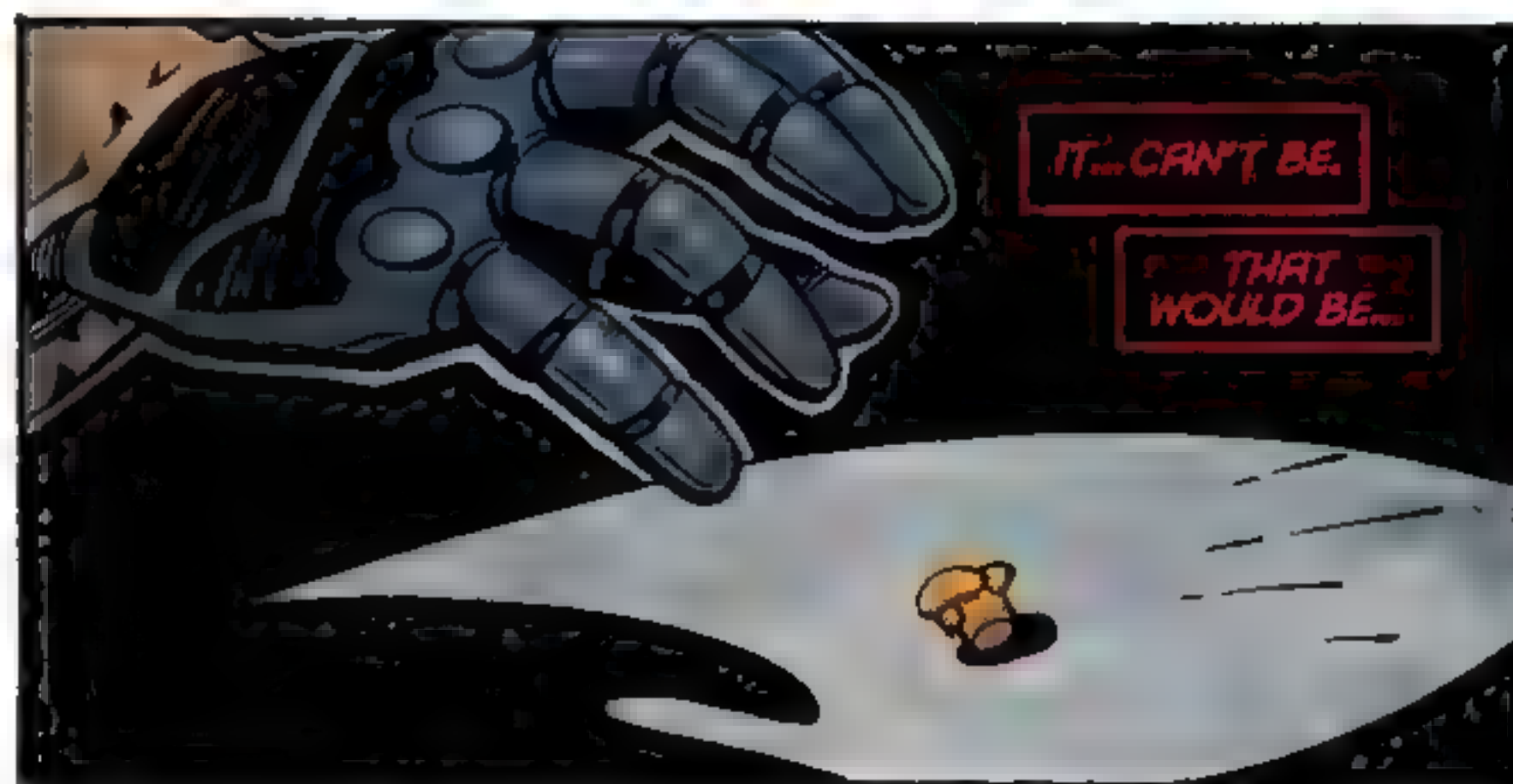
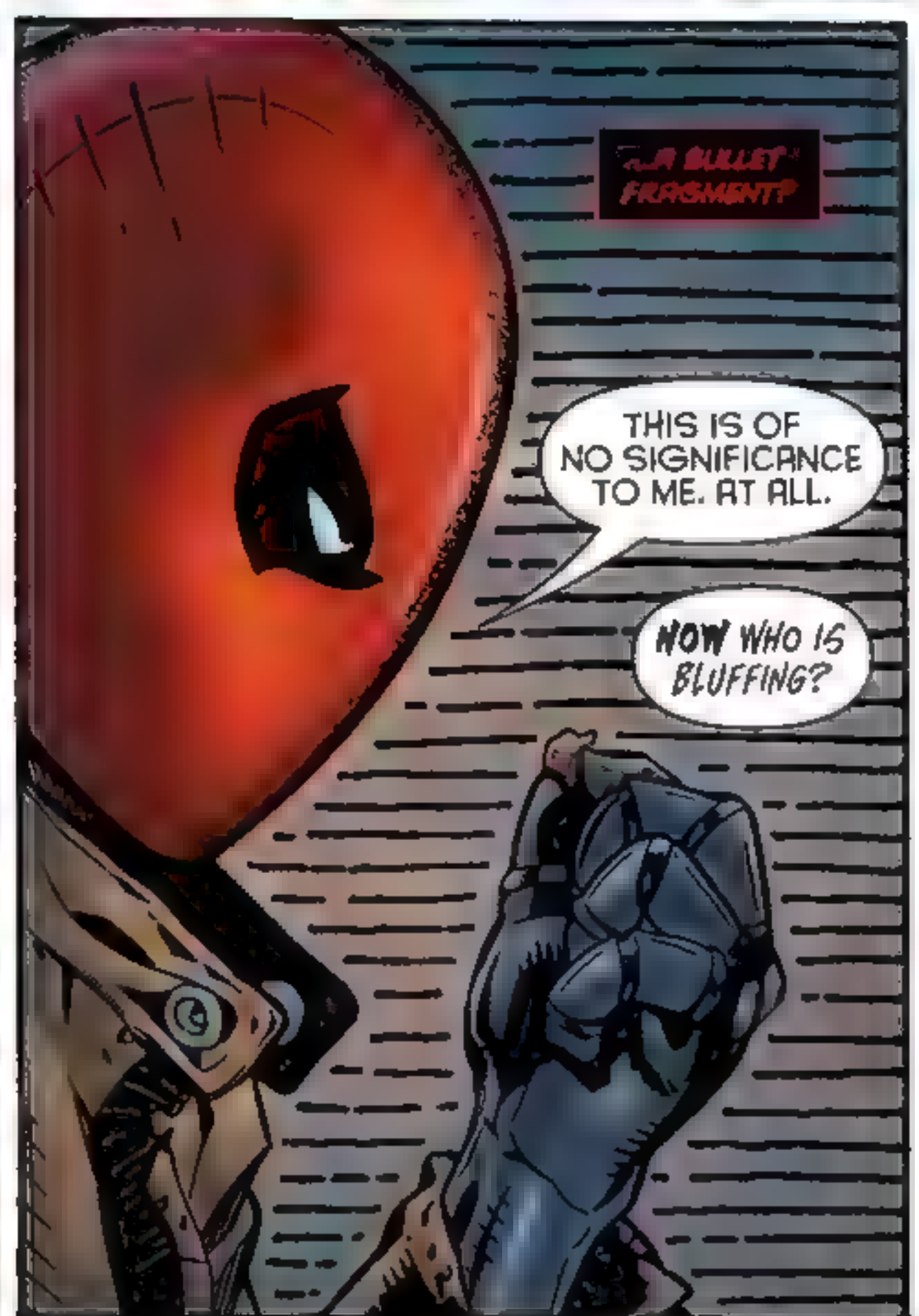
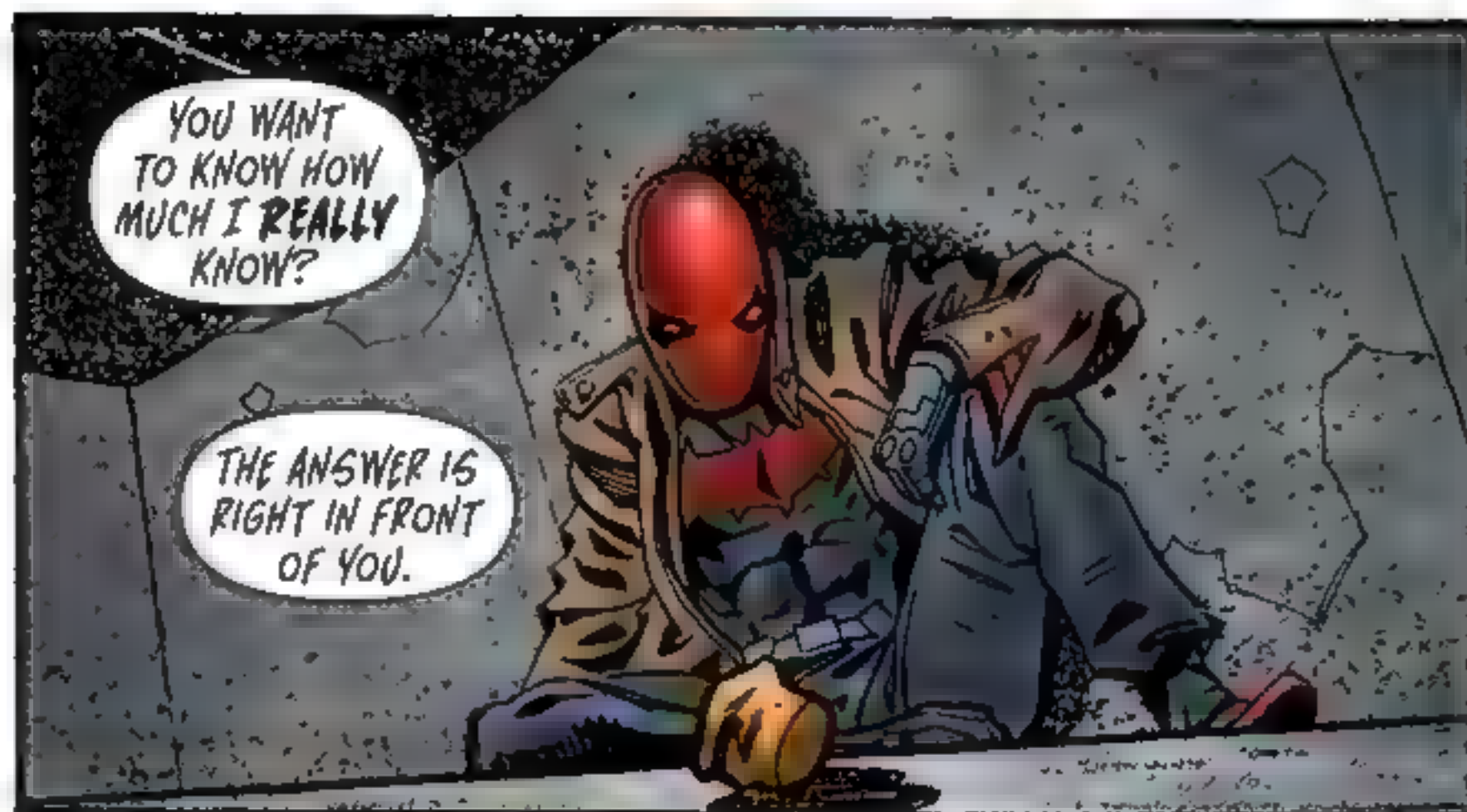
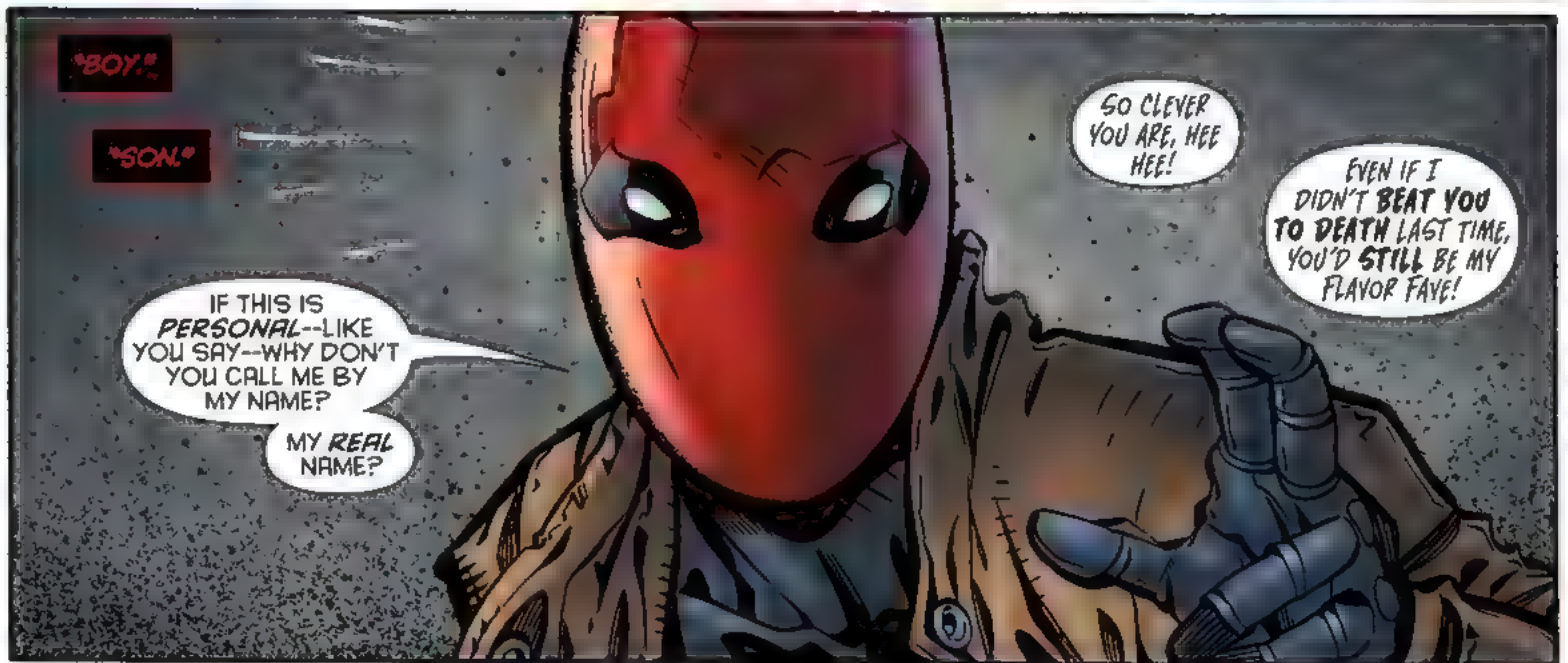
THAT SEEMS A BIT INTRUSIVE, NO?

I HOPE YOU DON'T MONITOR MY EVERY MOVE LIKE THAT.

UM... PFFT!

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS LATER...?







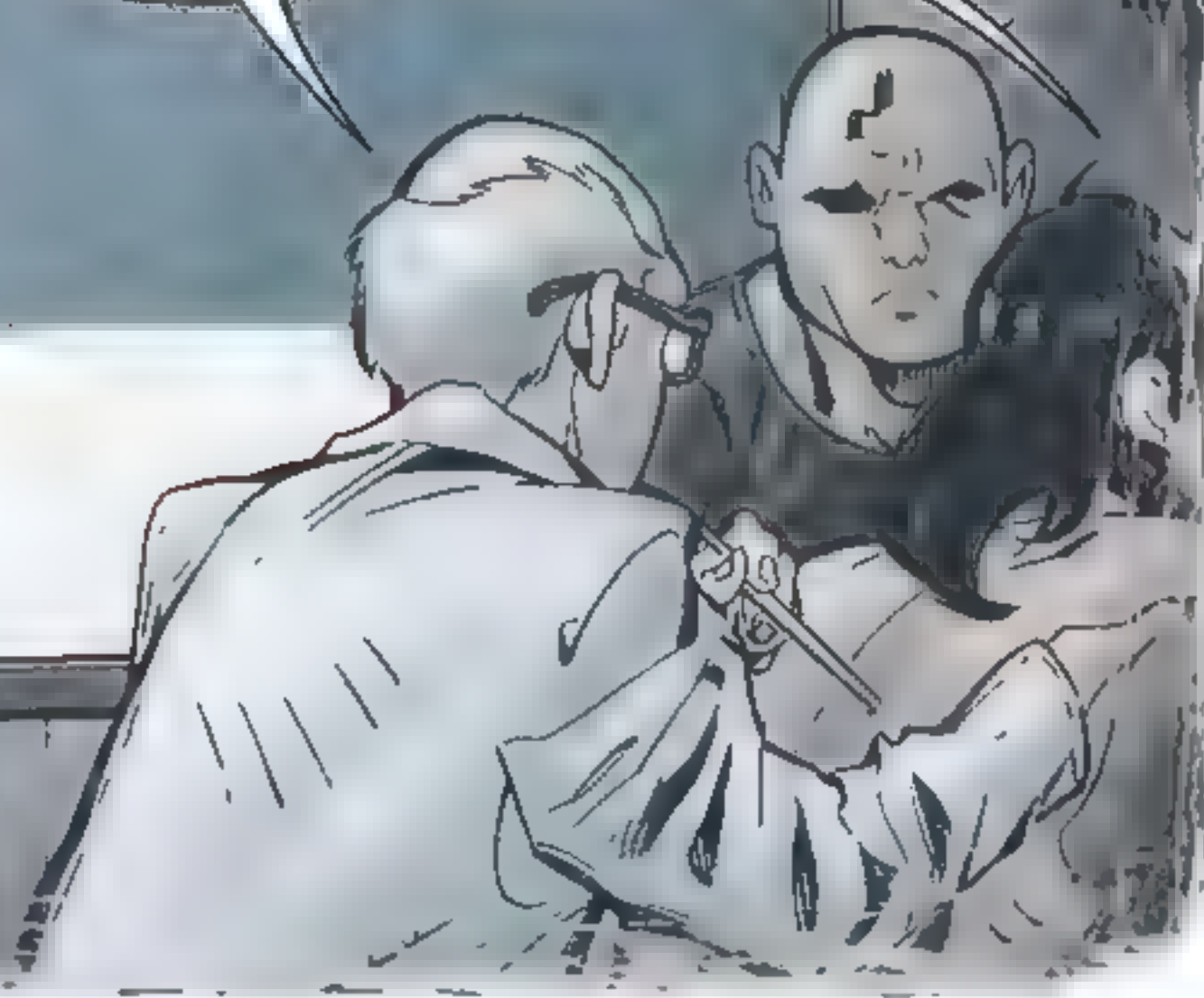
**I WAS  
A KID.**

**ONE NIGHT, MY DAD  
WAS BEING HIS  
USUAL SCUM-OF-  
THE-EARTH SELF.**

**...GOT  
HIMSELF  
SHOT.**

AL... MOST...  
GOT IT...

GRRRLUGHN!



**AT THE TIME, I  
REMEMBER WISHING  
THE BULLET HAD HIT HIS  
HEART AND NOT  
HIS ASS.**

**I GLARED AT THAT DUMB,  
STUPID METAL SLUG THAT  
COULDN'T DO ITS JOB.**



YOU WERE  
ALWAYS THE  
ANGRY ONE.  
THE  
BRAWLER.

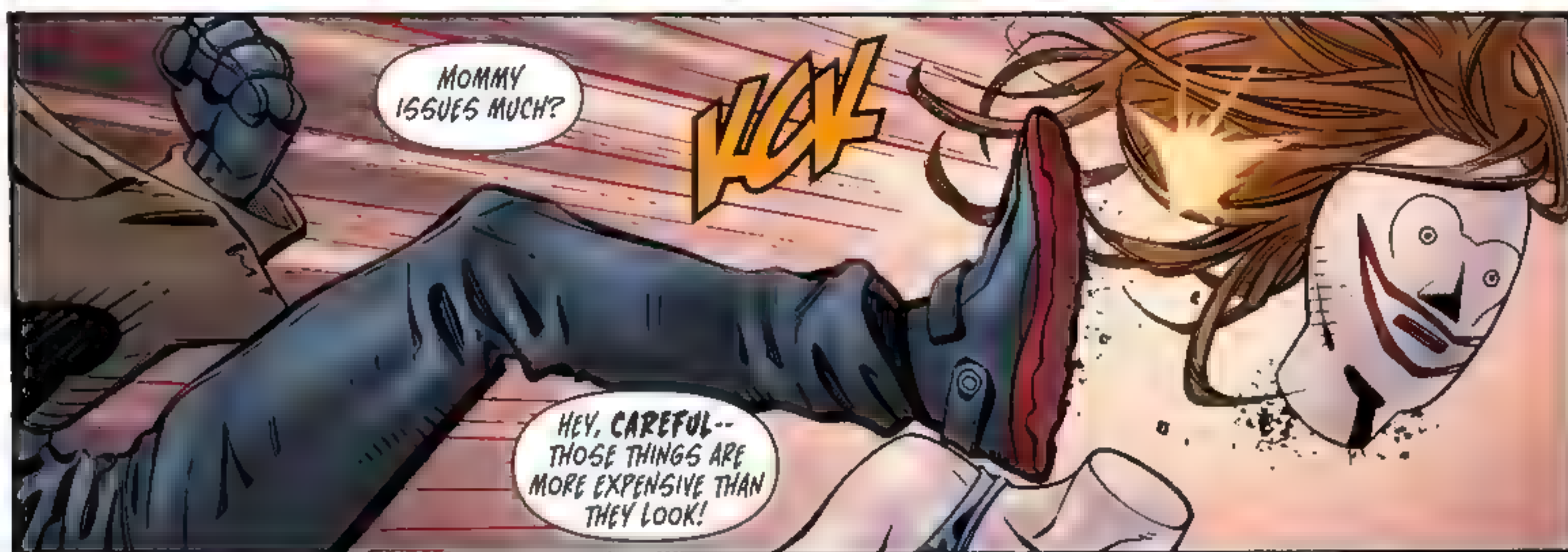
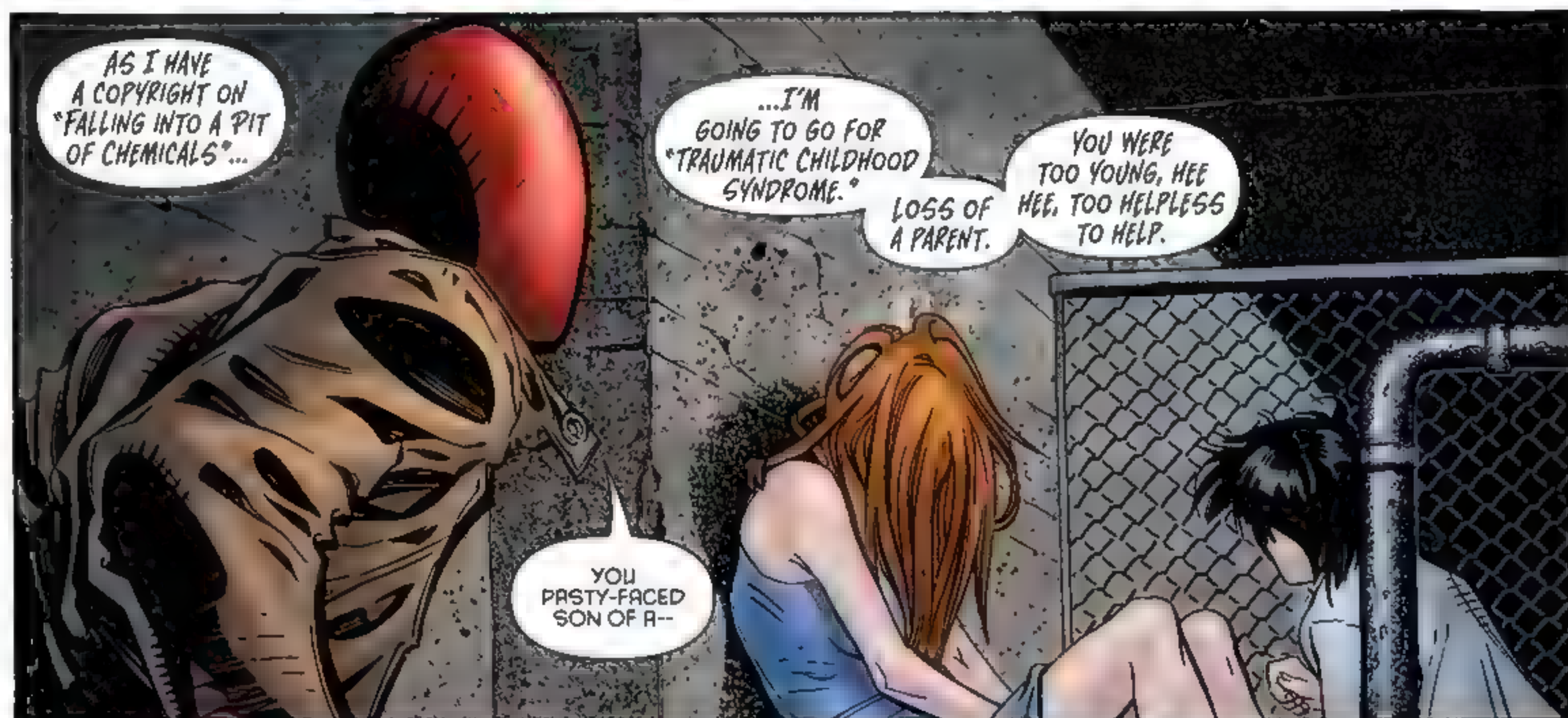
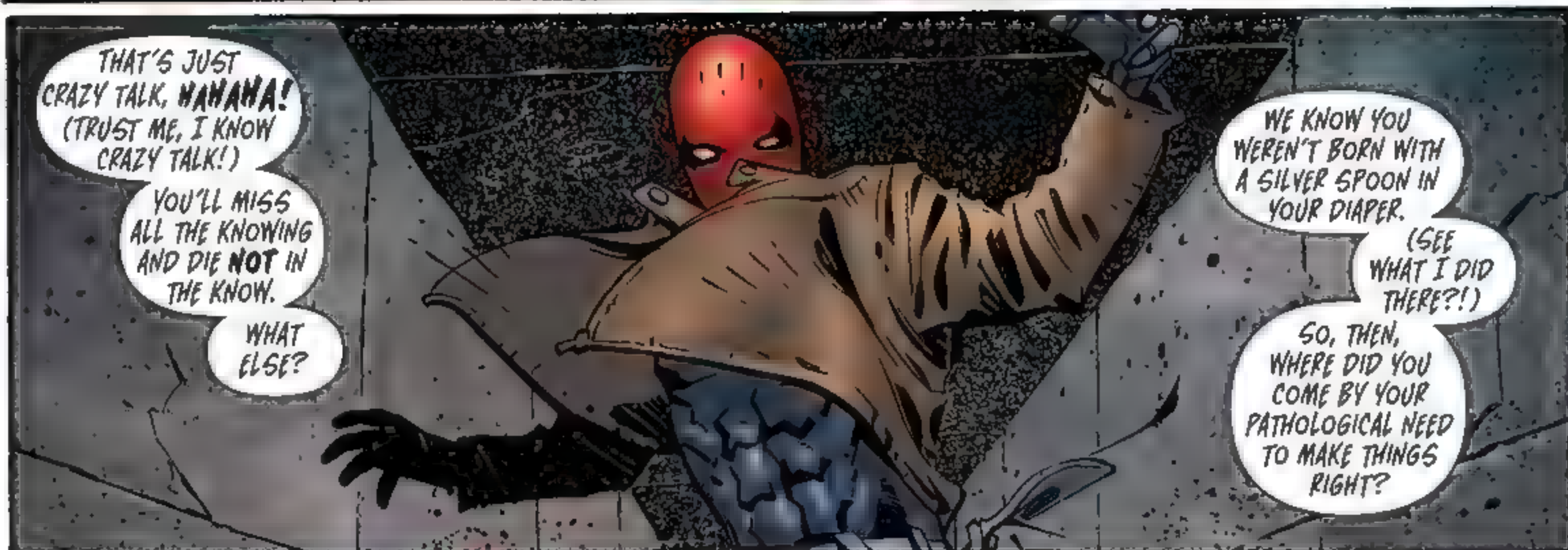
SO  
RAW.  
SO  
POSITIVELY  
ZESTY!



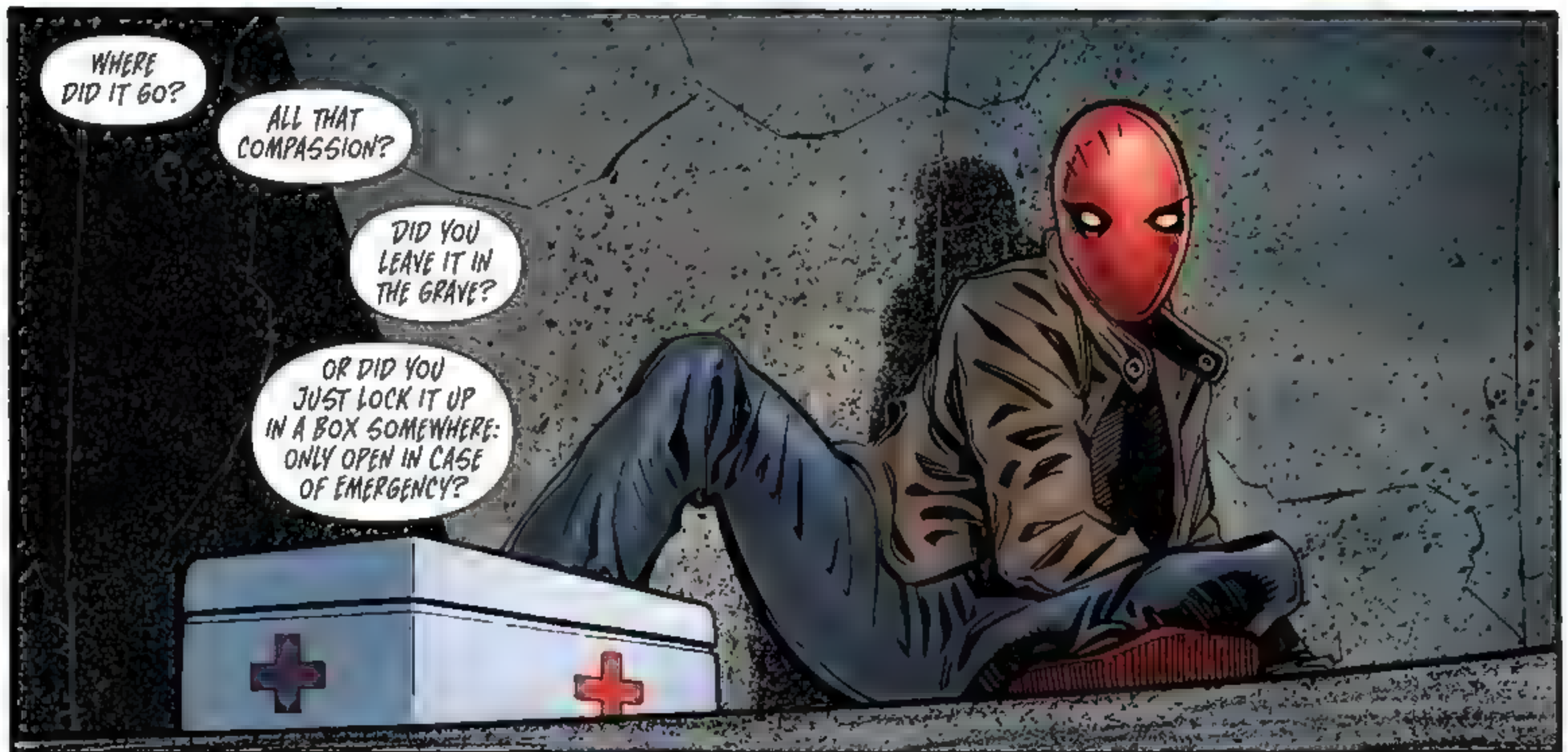
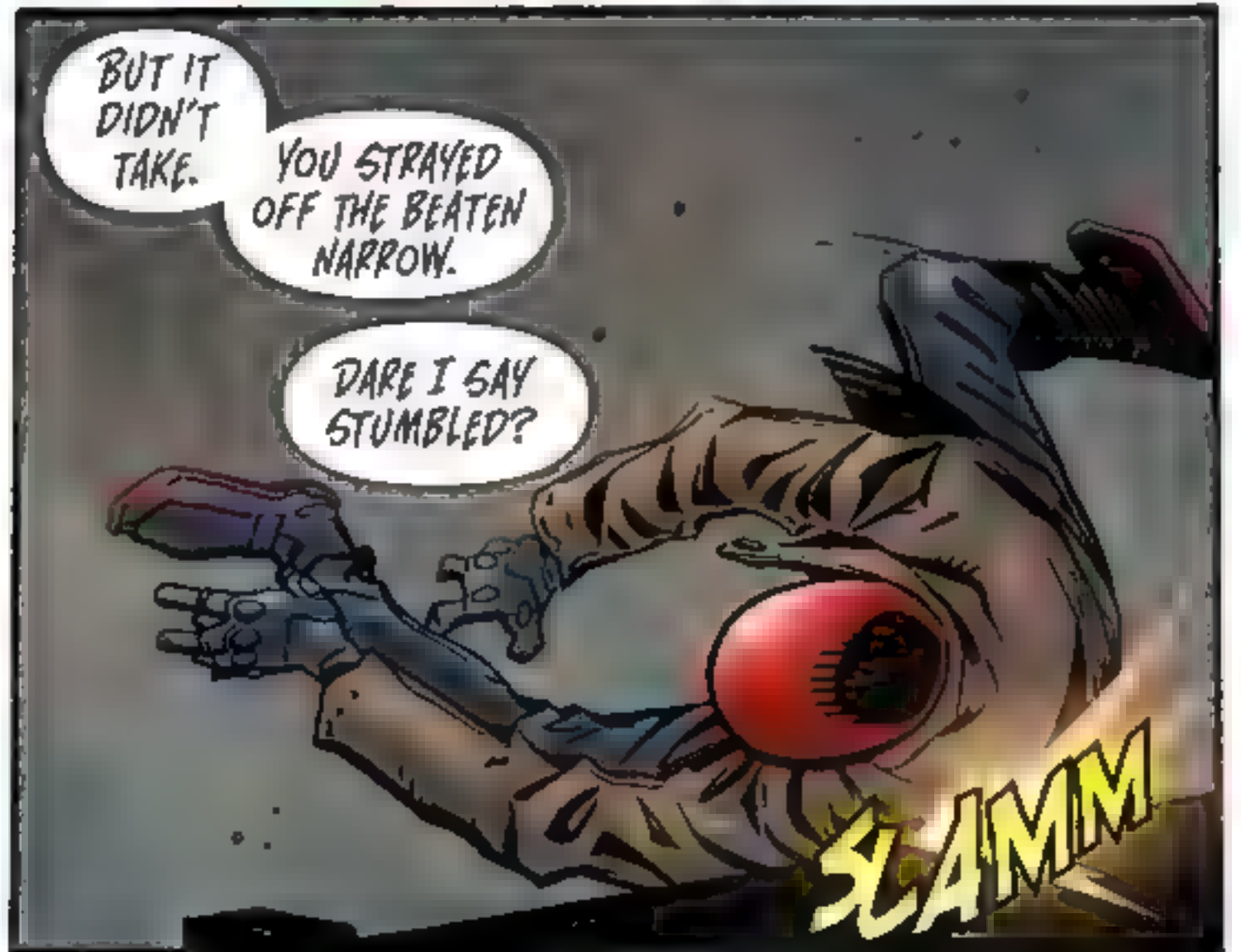
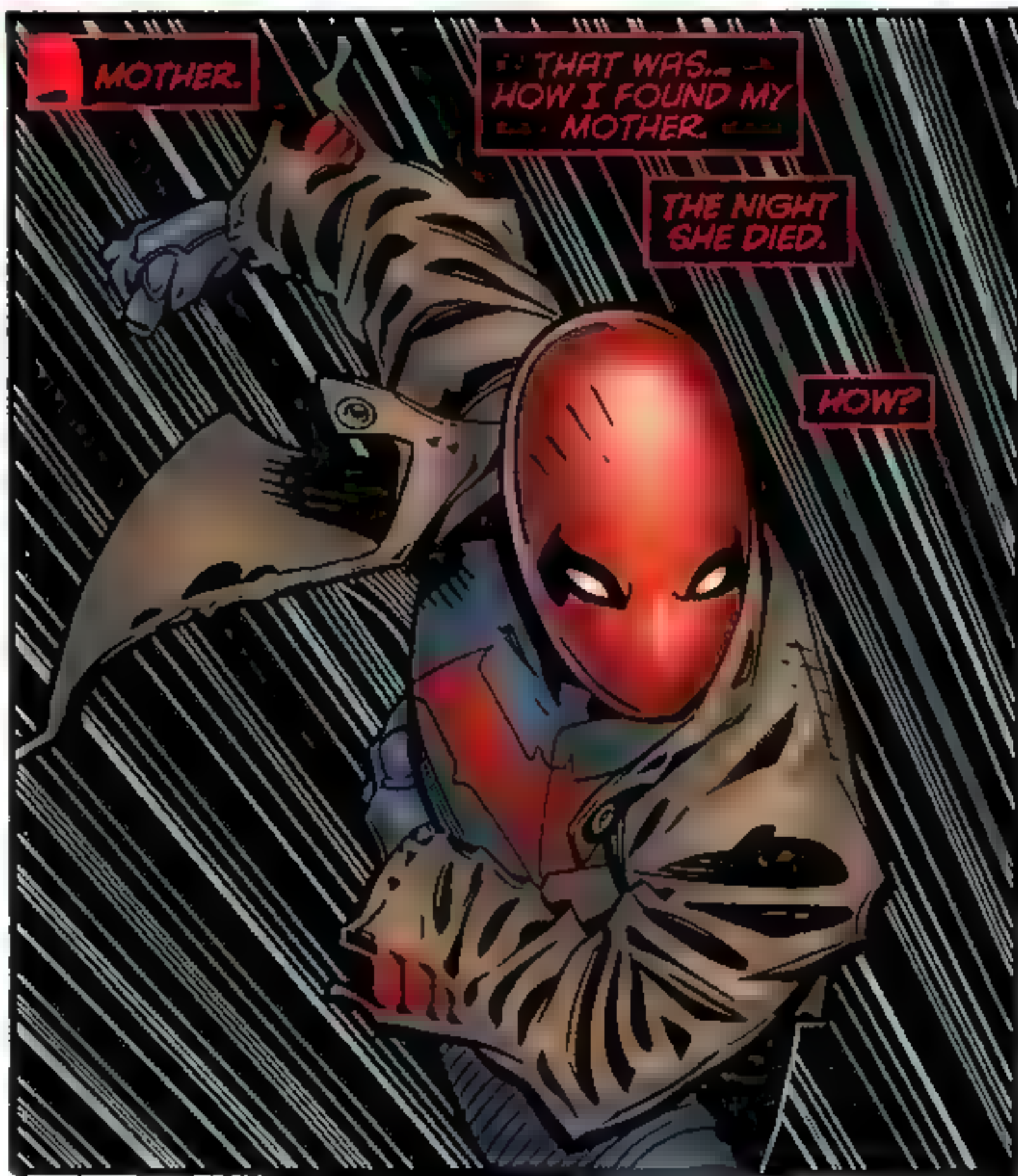
A BOY  
DOESN'T GROW  
UP THAT WAY ON  
HIS OWN. GOTHAM HAS  
TO FORGE A BOY  
LIKE THAT.  
HARDSCRABBLE  
STREETS PAVED IN  
BULLETS AND BROKEN  
DREAMS.

HMM.  
TOO LATE TO  
RENAME MYSELF  
"THE POLTEER"!

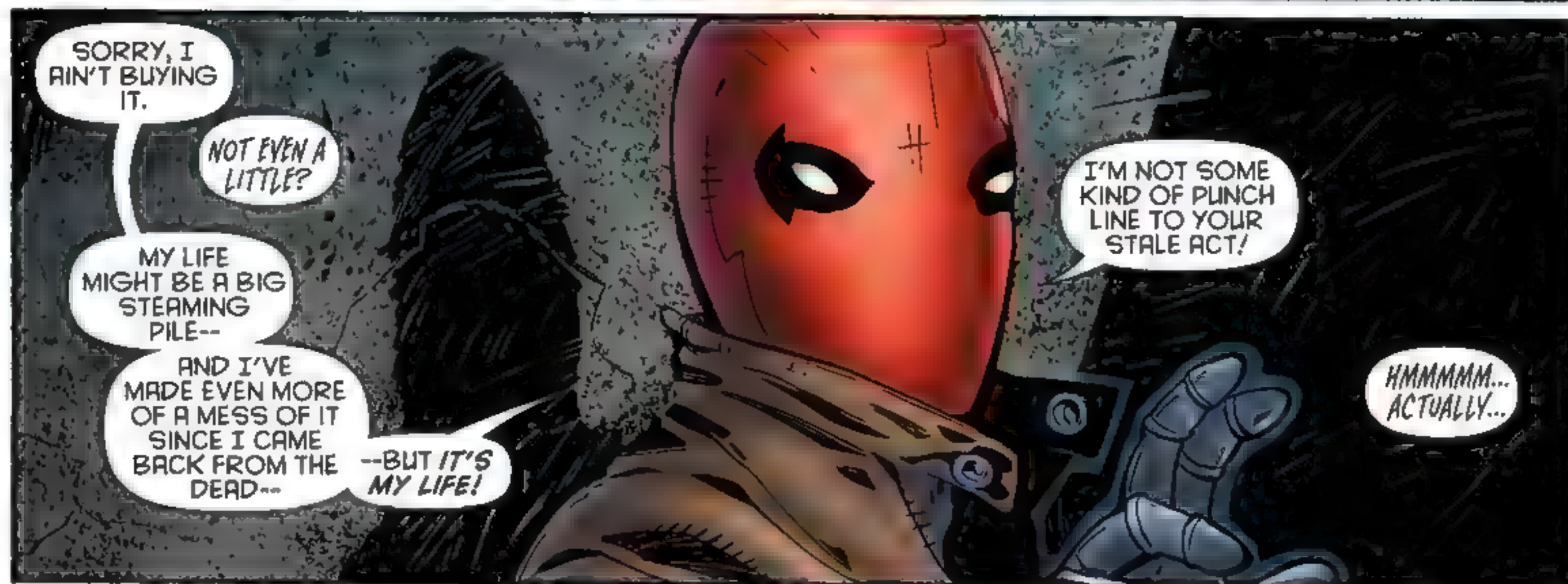
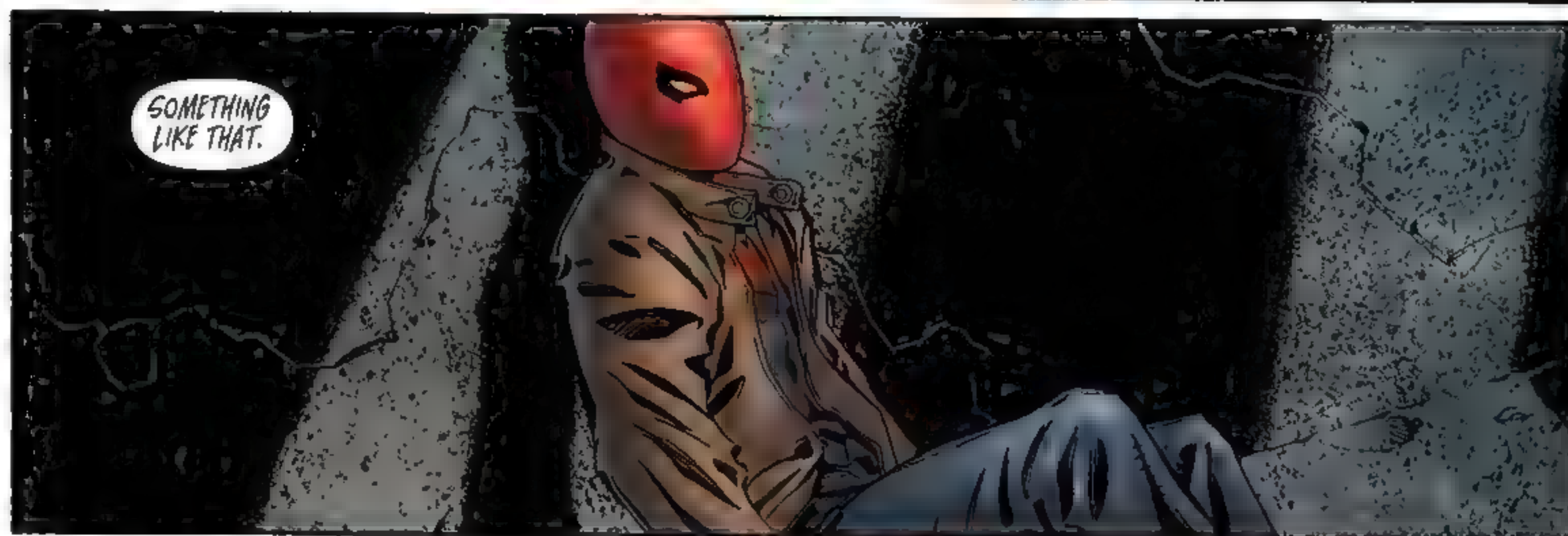
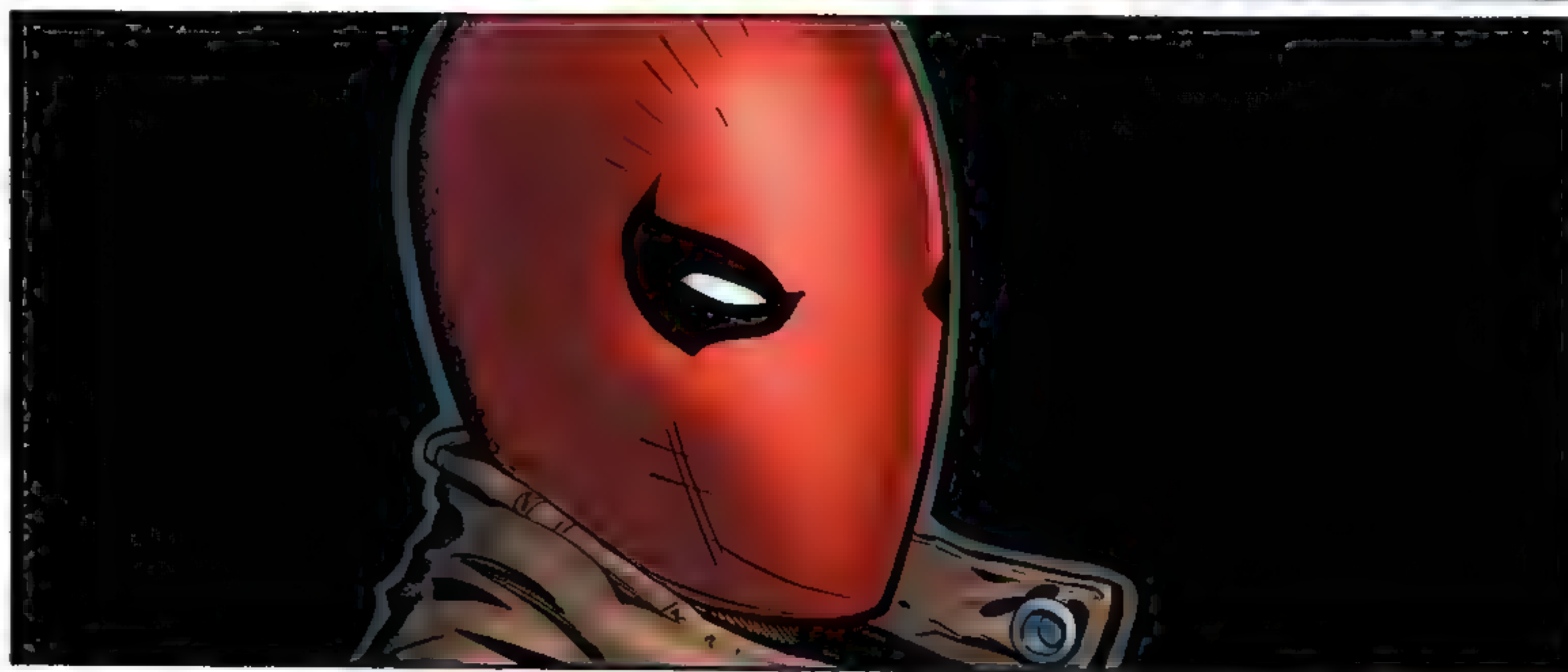




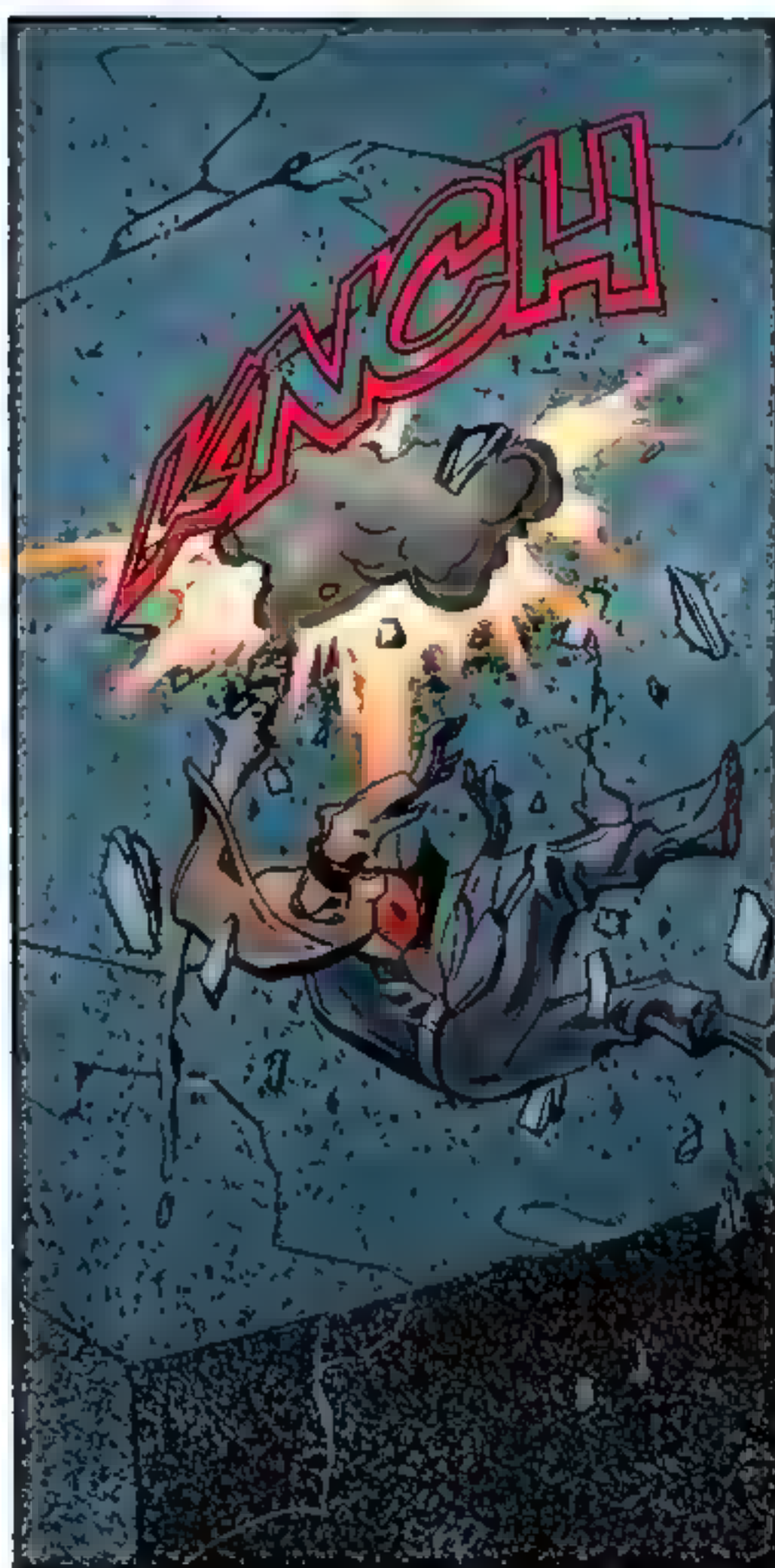
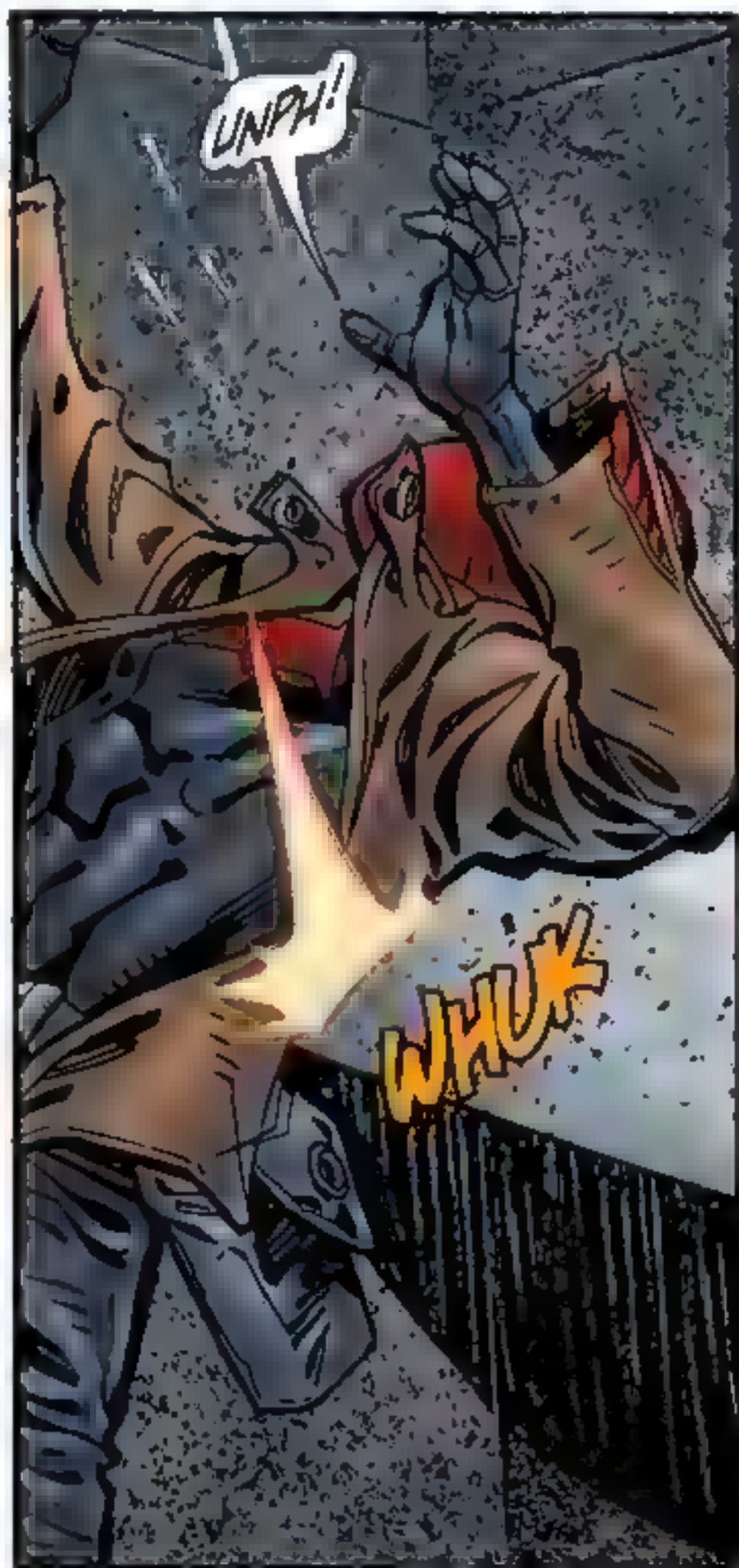


















I GREW UP IN A SERIES  
OF DEATH AND PRISON  
CAMPS THROUGHOUT  
THE GALAXY.

MOST OF  
THEM FELT LESS  
DANGEROUS THAN  
THIS PLACE

GOTHAM  
CITY.

IT ALWAYS SURPRISES ME  
THAT SOMEONE AS WARM  
AND WONDERFUL AS  
JASON WAS RAISED HERE.

YOU SAID WE  
DON'T HAVE ANY  
LEADS ON JASON'S  
EXACT LOCATION,  
ROY.

SO WHY ARE  
WE STOPPING  
HERE?

BECAUSE WE  
PICKED UP ANOTHER  
PHONE CALL. FROM A  
WONDER GIRL TO  
A BATGIRL.

WHAT DOES  
THAT HAVE TO  
DO WITH  
US?

MAYBE  
NOTHING. PROBABLY  
EVERYTHING.

FOR THE MOMENT,  
THOUGH, THERE  
IS TROUBLE--

--VERY  
CLEARLY JOKER  
RELATED--

--SO WE'RE  
NEEDED.

I UNDERSTAND.  
BUT WHAT IS  
A JOKER?



LOOKS LIKE  
THE *BIG KIDS*  
GOT HERE JUST  
IN TIME.

NOW,  
EVERYONE TAKE A  
DEEP BREATH--  
RELAX--

--LISTEN TO  
EVERYTHING  
I SAY--

--AND WE  
MIGHT ACTUALLY  
ALL LIVE TO SEE  
TOMORROW.

NO,  
REALLY,  
WHAT IS A  
JOKER?

**TO BE CONTINUED,**

**SORTA, IN *TEEN TITANS* #15!**

**THEN BE BACK HERE IN 30 DAYS  
AS *ARSENAL* SHOWS OFF HIS  
LEADERSHIP SKILLS! REALLY!**





HAVE YOU EVER BEEN  
IN THE PRESENCE OF  
TRUE GREATNESS?

ACK! ACK!  
HACK!



I'M NOT TALKING  
ABOUT A CELEBRITY  
OR AN ATHLETE.

HACK! HUH!  
HUHHACK!

UNN!  
HURN!



I'M TALKING  
ABOUT SOMEONE  
WHO CHANGES  
THE WORLD.

HURK!  
UNN!



ISN'T THIS NICE,  
HARLEY? JUST THE  
TWO OF US.

HA! HA!  
HA!

SOMEONE WHO  
HISTORY WILL  
NEVER FORGET.



WE CAN  
FINALLY HAVE  
SOME QUALITY  
TIME.

SO HAVE YOU? WELL,  
I HAVE, AND I'LL TELL  
YOU SOMETHING...

# DEATH OF THE FAMILY

## RUNNING WITH THE DEVIL, PART 2

WRITER: ADAM GLASS  
ARTIST: FERNANDO DAGOINO  
COLORIST: MATT YACKEY  
LETTERER: JARED K. FLETCHER  
COVER: KEN LASHLEY W/ MATT YACKEY  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: RICKEY PURDIN  
EDITOR: RACHEL GLUCKSTERN

...IT'S TO  
DIE FOR.



WAKY, WAKY,  
SLEEPY HEAD.



...THERE  
YOU ARE,  
MR. J.

I WAS  
HAVING...THE  
MOST TERRIBLE...  
DREAM EVER.



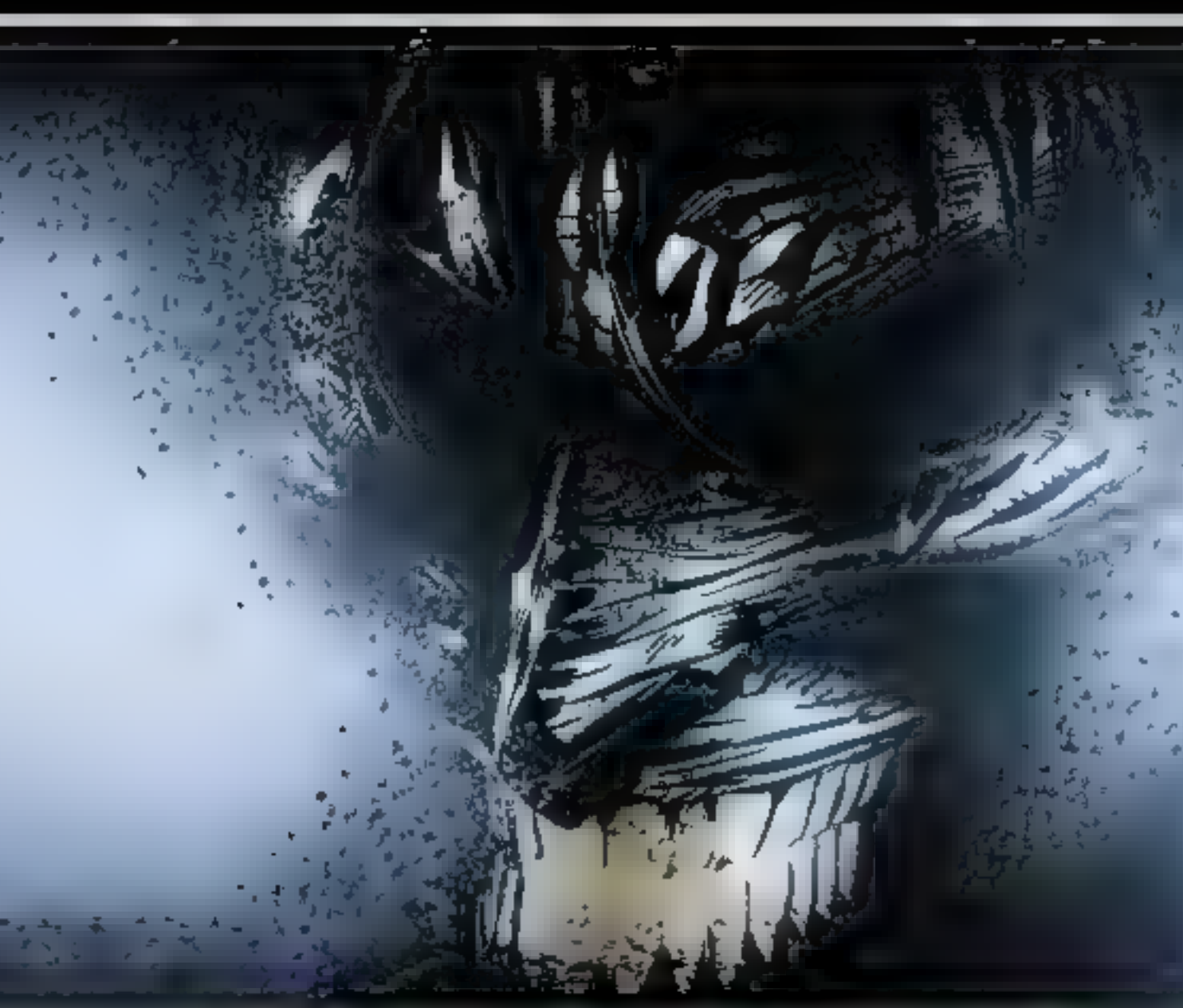
OH, DO TELL,  
HARLEY.

YOU HAD  
DISAPPEARED FOR...  
A LONG TIME. AND  
WHEN YOU CAME  
BACK...

WHAT,  
MY DEAR? I  
"CAME BACK"  
WHAT?

DIFFERENT.

DIFFERENT?



YEAH. YOU  
WERE A...

MONSTER!

NO, HARLEY! WHAT  
I AM IS FINALLY FULLY  
REALIZED. AND NOW YOU'RE  
ABOUT TO JOIN ME. THIS  
WAY WE CAN BE  
TOGETHER...





... FOREVER!

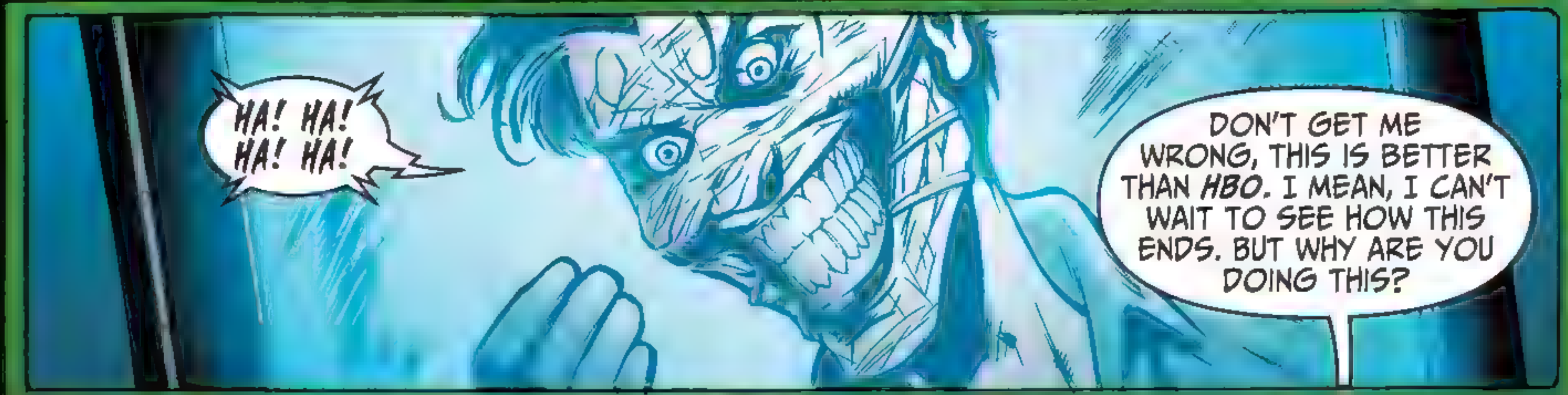
BUT FIRST YOU  
NEED A REFRESHER  
COURSE.

THEN I'M GONNA  
GIVE YOU THE BEST  
CHEMICAL PEEL YOU  
EVER HAD.

HA! HA!  
HA! HA!  
HA!







HA! HA!  
HA! HA!

DON'T GET ME  
WRONG, THIS IS BETTER  
THAN HBO. I MEAN, I CAN'T  
WAIT TO SEE HOW THIS  
ENDS. BUT WHY ARE YOU  
DOING THIS?

**WALLER'S COMMAND CENTER.**

**BELLE REVE PRISON.**



TO GAIN  
YOUR TRUST,  
YO-YO.

BY SHOWING  
ME TORTURE  
PORN?



RUNNING A  
SECRET OPS  
TEAM LIKE THE  
SUICIDE SQUAD  
REQUIRES  
ABSOLUTE  
CONTROL.

I SHARE  
MY SECRETS  
WITH YOU, AND  
IN RETURN, YOU  
TELL ME  
EVERYONE  
ELSE'S.

SO YOU  
WANT ME TO  
SPY FOR YOU,  
WALLER?

YES. ON  
OUR TEAM. AROUND  
THE PRISON. IN RETURN,  
YOU ANSWER TO NO  
ONE BUT ME.



AND  
WHAT'S IN  
IT FOR  
ME?

I CAN GIVE  
YOU WHAT  
YOU'VE ALWAYS  
DESIRED.

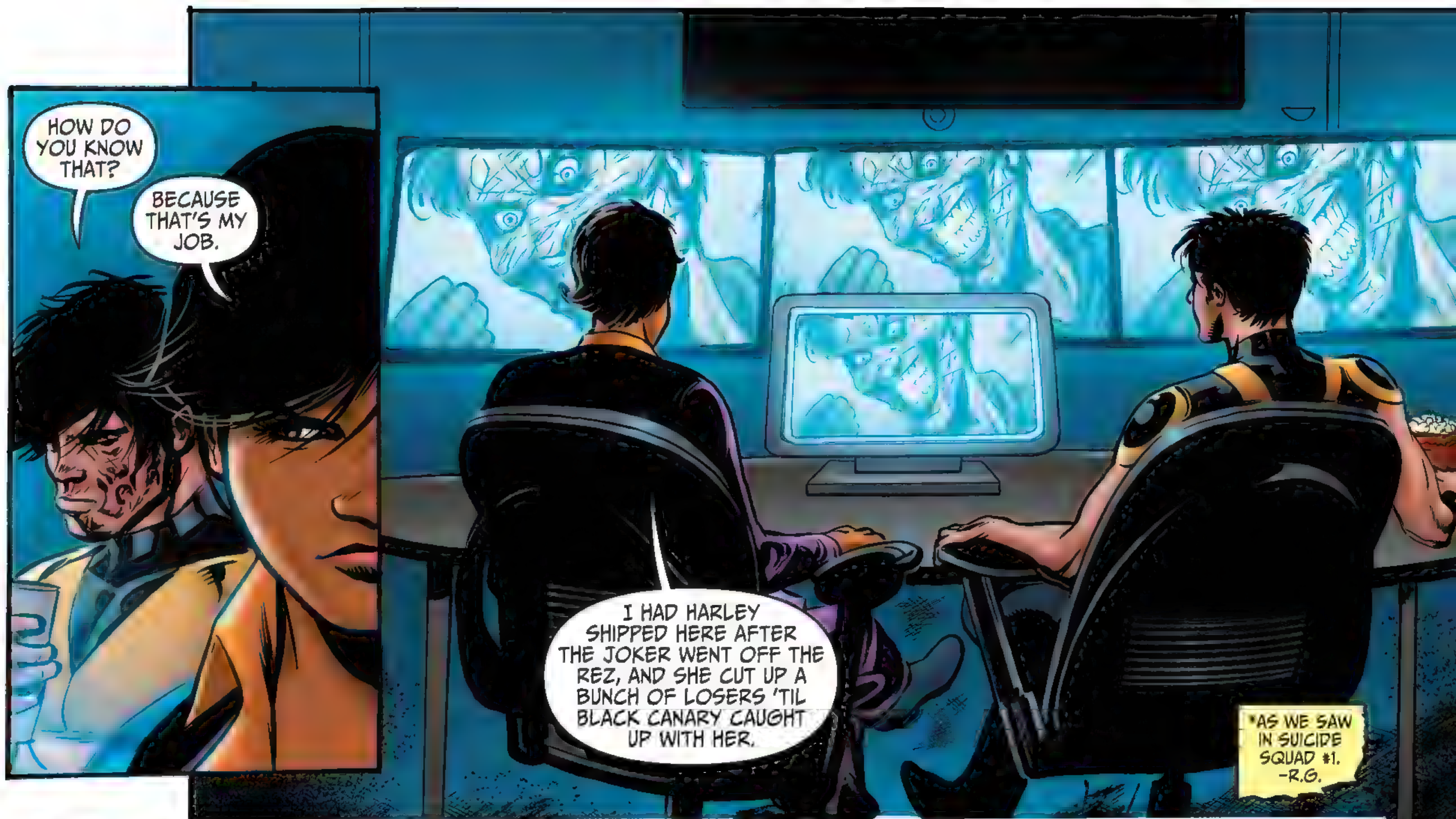
UNLESS YOU HAVE  
ANGELINA JOLIE'S  
NUMBER ON SPEED DIAL,  
I DOUBT THAT VERY  
MUCH.



YOU KID TO HIDE YOUR REAL INSECURITIES. WHAT  
YOU REALLY DESIRE IS RESPECT. AND THAT IS NOT  
SOMETHING YOU CAN ASK FOR, IT'S ONLY  
SOMETHING YOU CAN EARN.

I WILL  
TEACH YOU  
HOW TO DO  
THAT.





HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

BECAUSE THAT'S MY JOB.

I HAD HARLEY SHIPPED HERE AFTER THE JOKER WENT OFF THE REZ, AND SHE CUT UP A BUNCH OF LOSERS 'TIL BLACK CANARY CAUGHT UP WITH HER.

\*AS WE SAW IN SUICIDE SQUAD #1.  
-R.G.



I KNEW EVENTUALLY THE JOKER WOULD COME BACK, AND WHEN HE DID, HE'D GRAB HIS LITTLE BAG OF CRAZY AND THEY'D HAVE A REUNION.

SO I PLANTED BIONIC REMOTE CONTACT LENSES IN HARLEY'S EYES AND BIDED MY TIME.



I EVEN PUT UP WITH ALL HER CRAP.

AND TURNED A BLIND EYE TO HER LITTLE FLING WITH THE DEPARTED DEADSHOT.

ALL BECAUSE I KNEW SHE'D GET ME A RINGSIDE SEAT TO WATCH ONE OF THE GREATEST CRIMINAL MINDS OF OUR TIME IN ACTION.

AND THAT WAS PRICELESS.



THE GUY IS A CLASS-ONE LUNATIC. YOU SHOULD BE CALLING THE COPS AND HAVING HIM TAKEN IN.

WHEN I'M DONE LEARNING WHAT I NEED.

SEE, I ALWAYS BELIEVED HARLEY COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT THE JOKER, BUT THE TRUTH IS, IT IS HE WHO CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT HER.

IN HIS OWN STRANGE WAY, HE ACTUALLY LOVES HARLEY AND WANTS HER APPROVAL.



"THEN WHY IS HE ABOUT TO KILL HER?"

"BECAUSE HE'S LOST HER, AND HE KNOWS IT."

"BUT HE HAS HOPE."

BON VOYAGE!  
DON'T FORGET  
TO WRITE!

YOU KNOW  
HOW I HATE TO  
GO ANYWHERE  
WITHOUT YOU,  
BABY.

SNAP

WAIT! NO! HEE  
HEE. THIS ISN'T  
PART OF MY--

--PLAN!

I DON'T  
REMEMBER THIS  
POSITION IN THE  
KAMA SUTRA, DO  
YOU?

HA! HA!  
HA! HA!

YOU STILL  
MAKE ME LAUGH,  
HARLEY!

I'M JUST  
FULL OF  
SURPRISES.

GOOD SEEING  
YOU. I'LL LET  
MYSELF OUT.

NOT SO FAST,  
DARLING. YOU  
HAVEN'T EVEN SAID  
HELLO TO THE  
KIDS.





THEY'VE MISSED THEIR MOMMY.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO BUD AND LOU?

I HELPED THEM REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. SOMETHING I COULD NEVER ACCOMPLISH WITH YOU.



HEE HEE  
HEE HEE

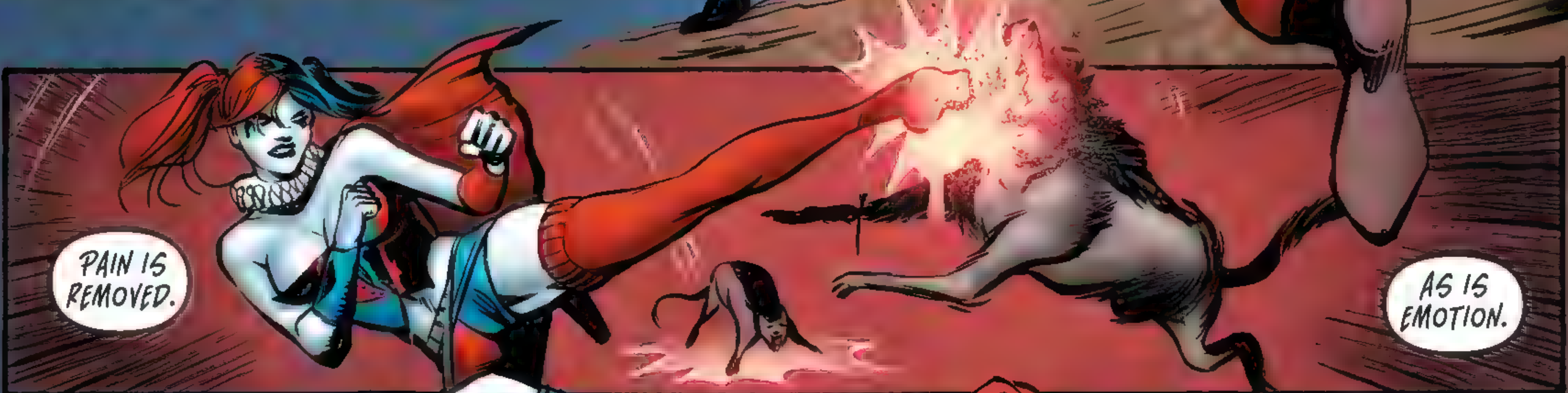
HEEOWWL!

THEY'RE RABID. YOU PURPOSELY GAVE THEM RABIES. HOW COULD YOU? WE RAISED THEM SINCE THEY WERE PUPS!

BECAUSE, LIKE ME, THEY ARE NOW FREE TO BE WHAT THEY REALLY ARE.

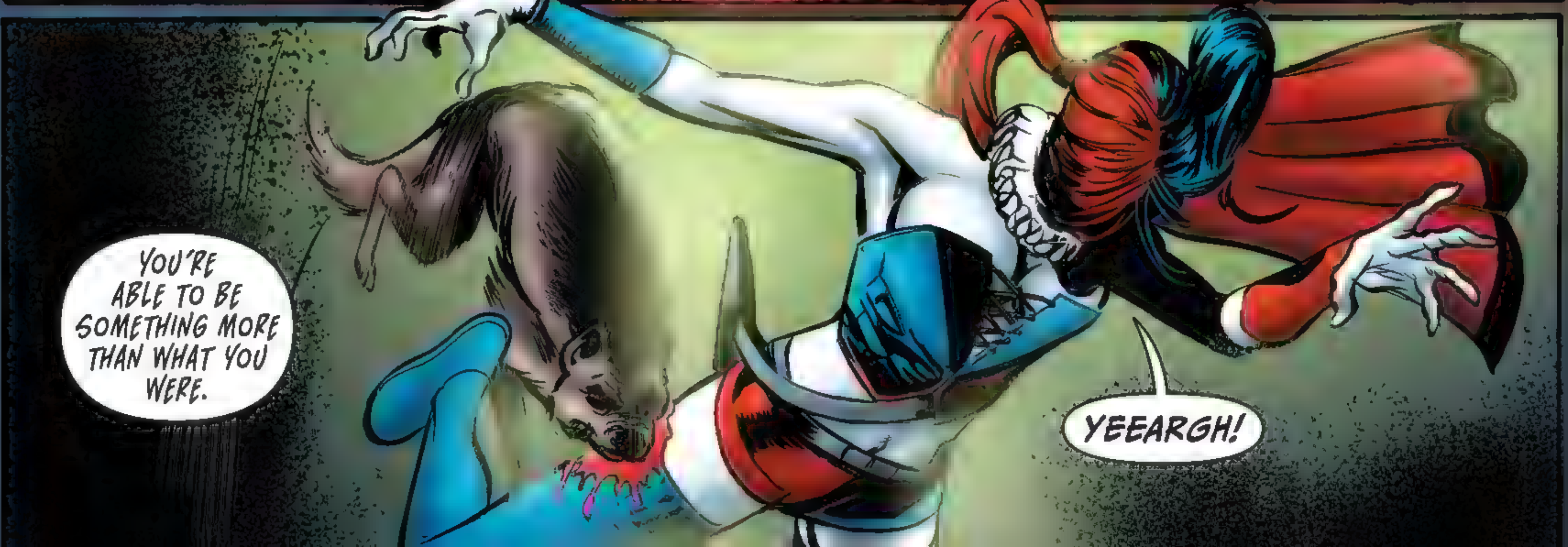


PURE ANIMAL INSTINCT. IT'S A THING OF BEAUTY, AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.



PAIN IS REMOVED.

AS IS EMOTION.



YOU'RE ABLE TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN WHAT YOU WERE.

YEEARGH!









I'M GOING  
TO KILL YOU  
FOR THIS.



HEHEHEHEE...

DO I HAVE TO  
GIVE THIS SPEECH  
AGAIN?

YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO KILL  
ME--



WELL, LET'S  
TEST THAT THEORY  
OUT.

OH, I LIKE  
THIS SIDE OF  
YOU.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT THEY SAY.  
THERE'S A THIN LINE  
BETWEEN--

--LOVE  
AND HATE!

WHOOOM







OH, HOW  
I FAILED YOU,  
MY DEAR.

I TAKE ALL  
THE BLAME.



YOU NEVER  
REALLY CHANGED,  
DID YOU,  
HARLEEN?

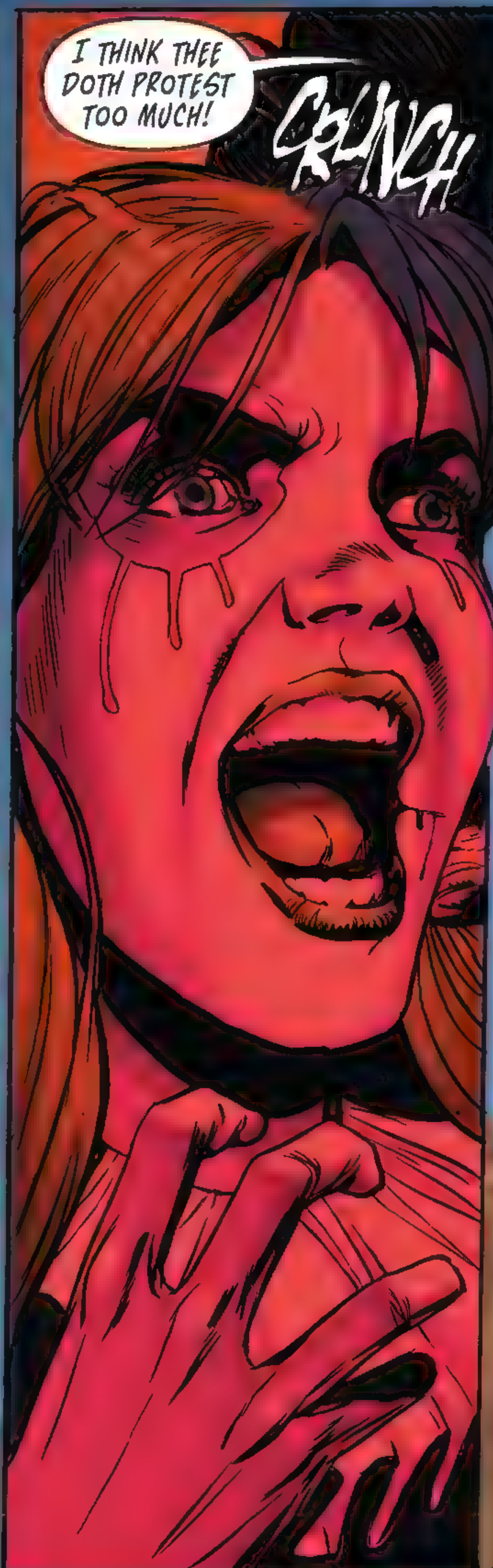


THE CHEMICALS  
DIDN'T ALTER YOU  
LIKE THEY DID  
ME.

THEY JUST  
GAVE YOU AN  
EXCUSE.

A WAY FOR  
YOUR MIND TO  
JUSTIFY YOUR  
ACTIONS.

NO! THAT'S  
NOT TRUE!



I THINK THEE  
DOTH PROTEST  
TOO MUCH!

CRUNCH



YEEAOWW!

YOU  
BIT MY  
EAR!





P-TEW!

THEY WERE RIGHT. TASTES LIKE CHICKEN.



WHY?

THE ASKING OF THE QUESTION SHOWS YOUR TRUE WEAKNESS.

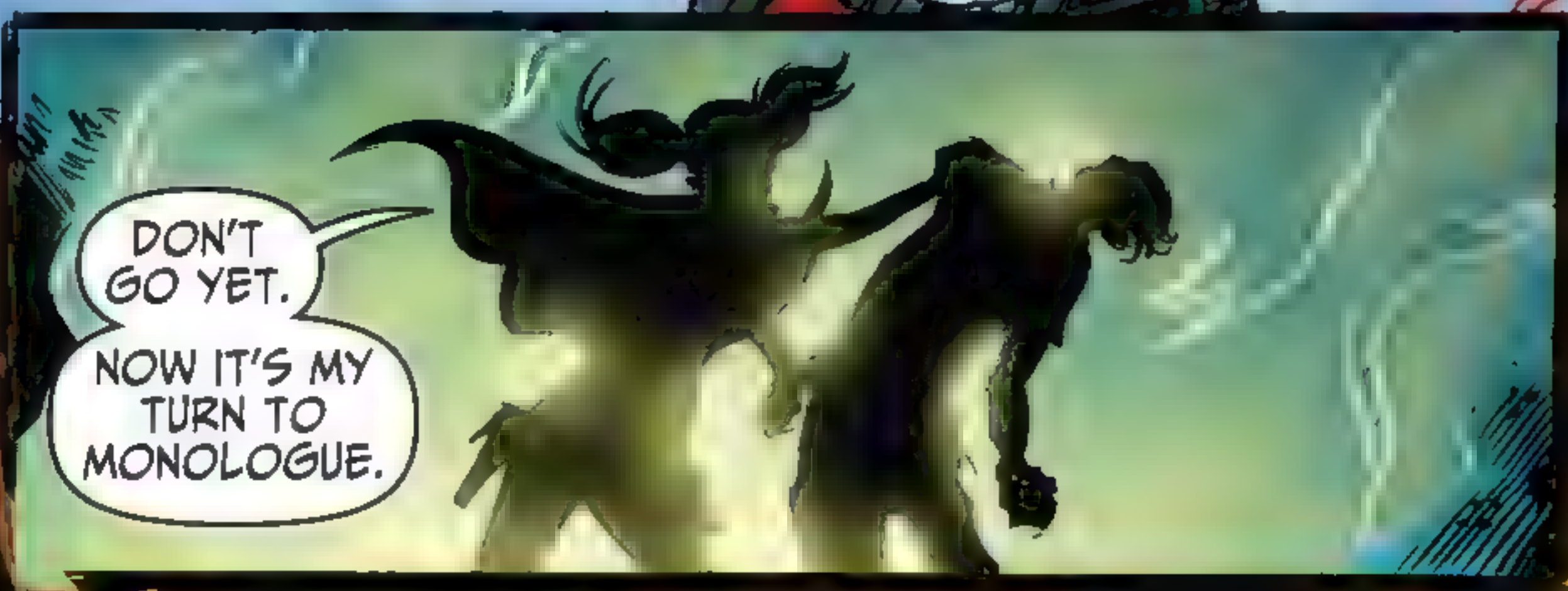
YOU'RE STILL A CREATURE OF HUMANITY, NOT INSTINCT. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU ARE WEAK.

NOW, HOLD STILL. THIS WILL ONLY HURT LIKE HELL 'TIL I CUT THROUGH THE DERMIS LAYER OF YOUR SKIN.



I THINK I'M GOING TO PLAY HARD TO GET, INSTEAD.

KLONG



DON'T GO YET.

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO MONOLOGUE.



KRAASH







YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEVER FELT RIGHT DOING THE THINGS WE DID. BUT I LOVED YOU. AND FOR THAT, I DID IT. THEN YOU LEFT AND I WAS ALONE.

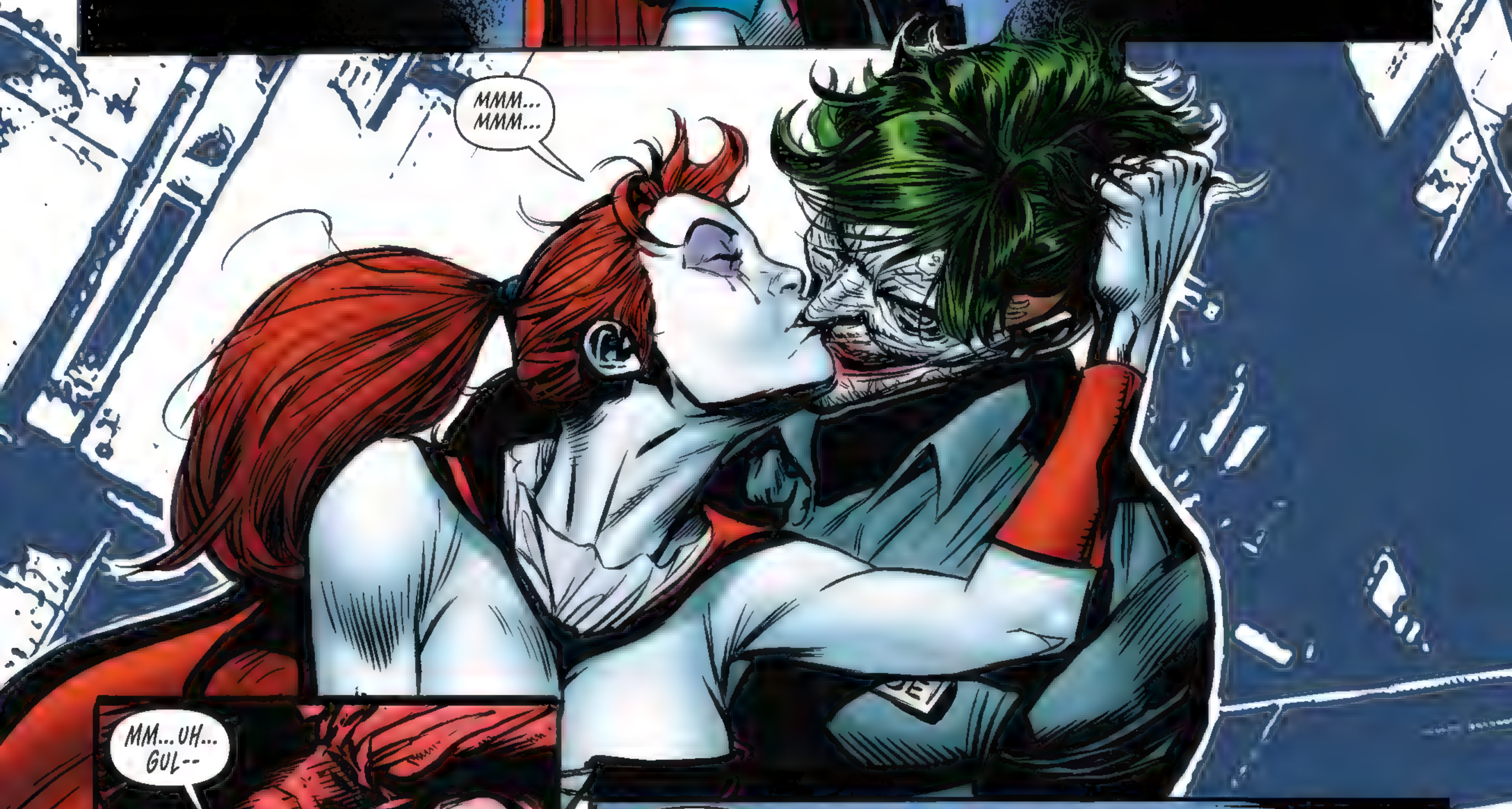
AND SOMEONE OFFERED ME A CHANCE TO BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN WHAT I HAD BEEN.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I LIKED IT. IT FELT RIGHT.

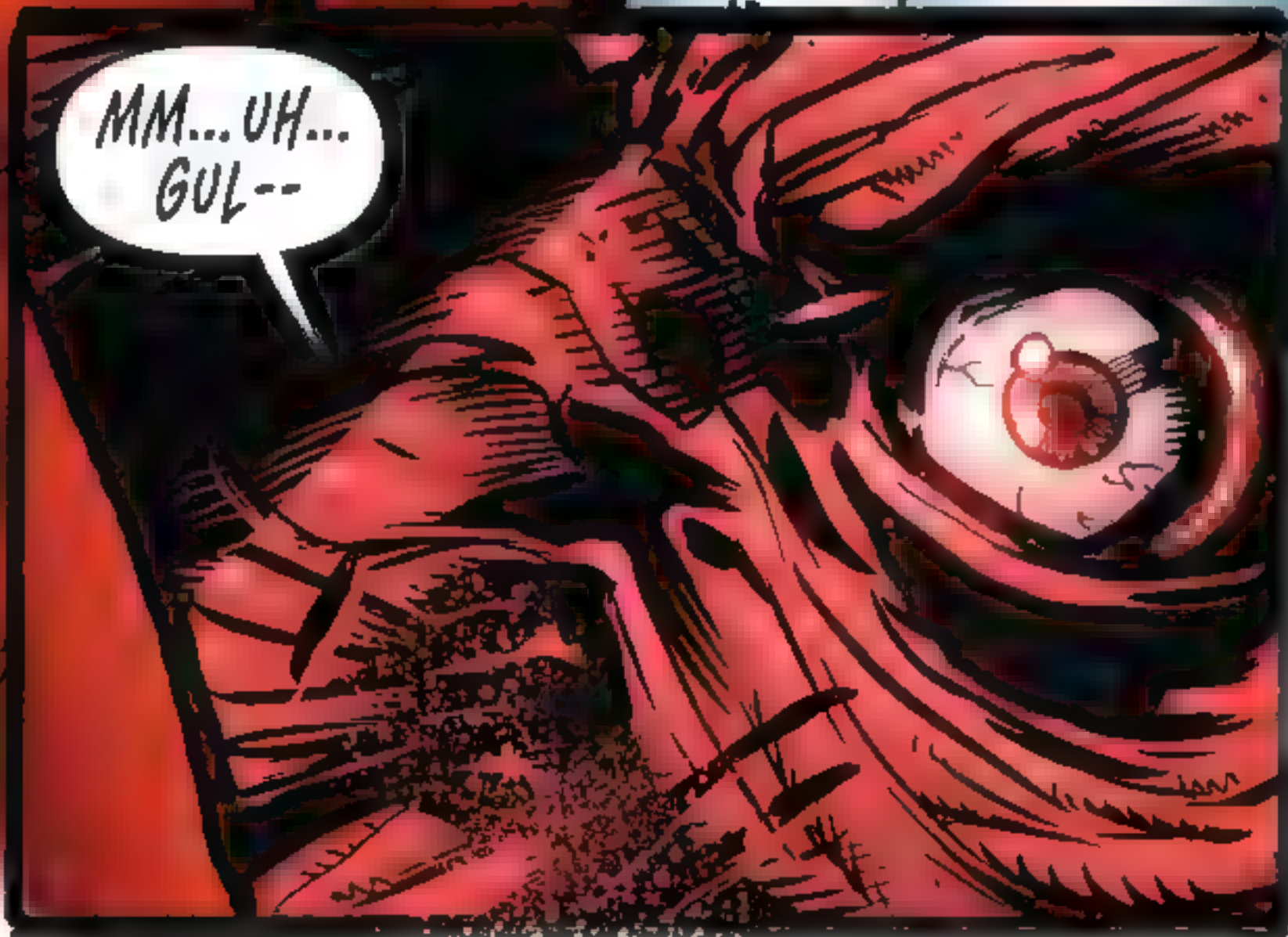
BUT I STILL LOVED YOU.



MMM...  
MMM...



MM... UH...  
GUL--



P-TEW!



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL SOME TONGUE.

...BUT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU DOESN'T MEAN I BELONG WITH YOU. SO, I THINK WE SHOULD BREAK UP.

OH, I AGREE...











OTHER HARLEYS!

WHAT? YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE?!

I CAN TELL YOU THIS. YOU WON'T EVEN BE THE LAST.

AND LIKE ALL OF THEM, YOU WILL STAY HERE AND DIE, AND NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU. IN TIME YOU'LL JUST BE FORGOTTEN.

HA HA HA HA!

LIKE YOU NEVER EXISTED.

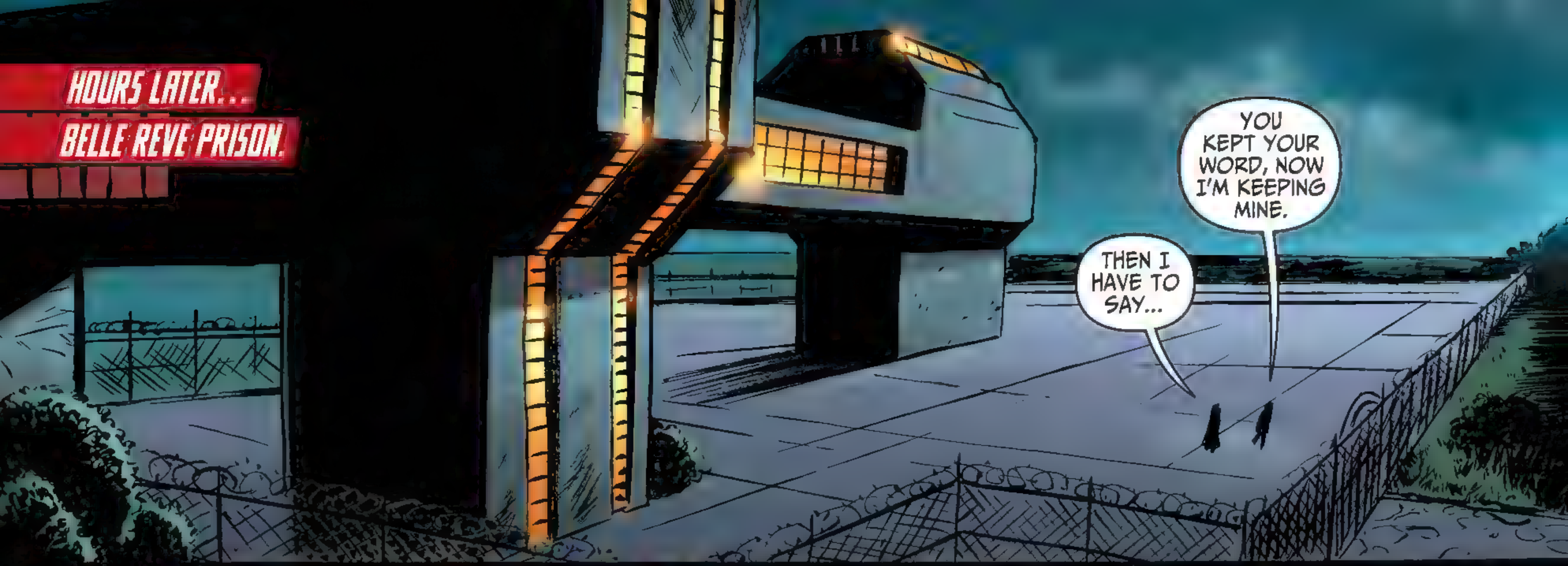
SLAM

I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE!

THAT WOULD TAKE SOMETHING YOU DON'T HAVE IN YOU. GOODBYE, HARLEEN. I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO UPSTAIRS.



HOURS LATER...  
BELLE REVE PRISON.



THEN I  
HAVE TO  
SAY...

YOU  
KEPT YOUR  
WORD, NOW  
I'M KEEPING  
MINE.



...IT WAS  
NICE DOING  
BUSINESS  
WITH YOU,  
WALLER.

IT WAS A  
MEANS TO AN  
END, BUT IN NO  
WAY NICE OR  
BUSINESS.



YOU SURE KNOW  
HOW TO MAKE  
FRIENDS.

I HAVE NO  
INTEREST IN MAKING  
FRIENDS WITH YOU,  
BOOMERANG. I KNOW  
EXACTLY WHO  
YOU ARE.

YEAH, I'M THE GUY  
WHO'S NOT GOING  
TO END UP SIX  
FEET DEEP LIKE  
DEADSHOT!



I'LL  
BE...IS  
THAT--?

STAND DOWN,  
BOOMERANG!











WELCOME HOME, HARLEY.

THANKS.

NOW WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

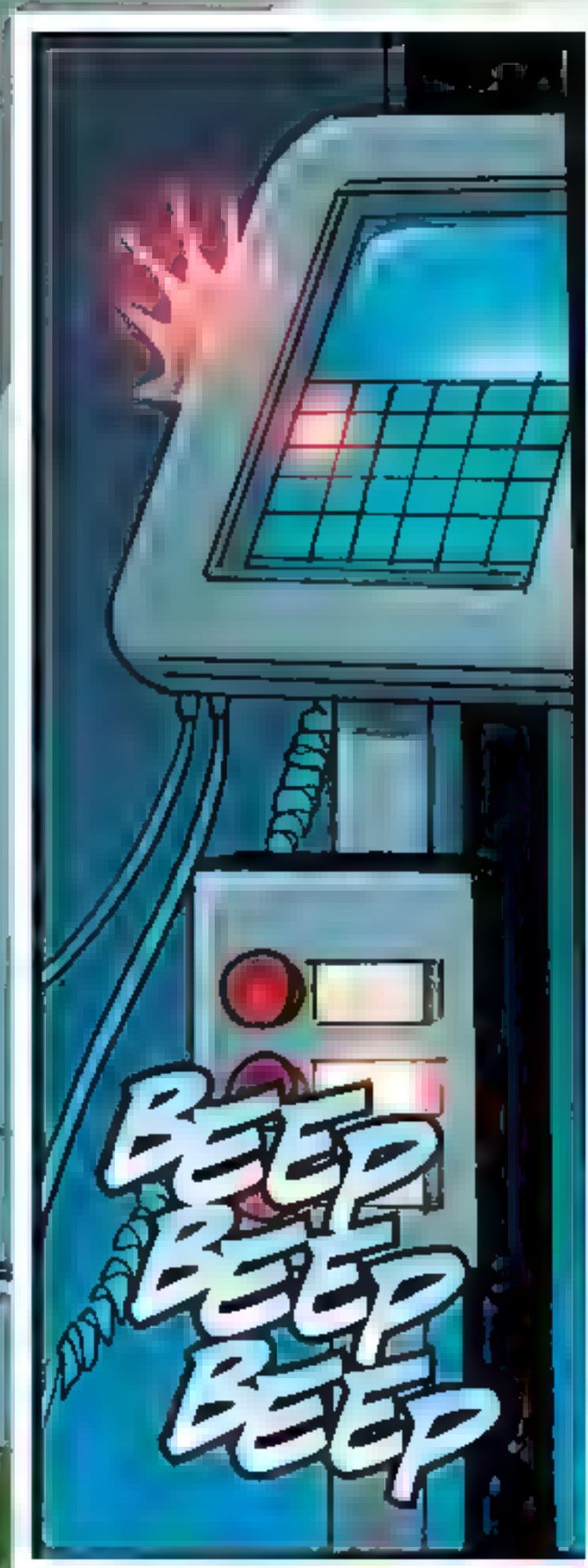


WHAT I HAD TO TO ESCAPE. A LITTLE BLOOD, A LITTLE PAIN AND A LOT OF WIGGLING 'TIL MY HANDS WERE FREE.

I WANTED TO SHOW HIM I WAS MORE THAN JUST ONE OF HIS BROKEN TOYS TO THROW AWAY.

BEEP

**BELLE REVE PRISON.**



CONTACT WALLER, ASAP!

BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP

TELL HER DEADSHOT IS ALIVE!

**NEXT ISSUE:  
DEADSHOT RISING!**



DEATH OF THE FAMILY

# TEEN SCREAM

GOTHAM CITY.

WILL THIS  
TURN OUT TO  
BE A DREAM  
OR A NIGHTMARE?

BUT I DON'T DREAM,  
I SCHEME. AND IF I'M  
NOT THERE TO MAKE  
THE DECISIONS, WHAT WILL  
THE TEEN TITANS DO?

THEY'LL COME TO  
GOTHAM CITY, RUSH  
RIGHT IN, NO IDEA  
HOW THIS CITY WORKS  
AND IT'LL BECOME  
A NIGHTMARE

THEY'LL GET  
DEVOURED  
UNLESS ONE  
OF THEM  
SOLSTICE?  
UNDERSTANDS  
THE CITY.

...AND SEARCHES  
MY ROOM, MY  
SYSTEM—FINDS THE  
ONE NAME I KEEP  
AVAILABLE TO THEM.

THE ONE PERSON  
WHO WON'T MIND GETTING  
THE CALL (TOO MUCH)

## BATGIRL

GREAT,  
I TAKE FIVE  
MINUTES THAT  
I DON'T HAVE  
TO HELP A  
FRIEND—

--AND  
INSTEAD I GET  
THE CAST OF  
"ICARLY"?

BARBARA GORDON  
HAS MORE REASON TO  
HATE THE JOKER THAN  
ANY OF US, BUT SHE'D  
PUT THAT ASIDE TO  
HELP THE TITANS.

PLOT: SCOTT LOBDELL    DIALOGUE: FABIAN NICIEZA  
PENCILS: BRETT BOOTH    INKS: NORM RAPMUND  
COLORS: ANDREW DALHOUSE    LETTERS: TRAVIS LANHAM  
COVER: GREG CAPULLO AND FCO PLASCENCIA  
ASST. EDITOR: DARREN SHAN    EDITOR: EDDIE BERGANZA



SHE'LL TRY TO MAKE A JOKE TRY TOO HARD

ARE RUSHMORE STARE-BACKS--

--DE RIGUEUR FOR HIPSTER TEENS--

---OR HAS RED ROBIN RUBBED OFF ON ALL OF YOU...?

OKAY, I GOT A SMILE OUT OF ONE OF YOU.

ES MARAVILLOSA!

LET ME GUESS, BUNKER, RIGHT?

HE TOLD YOU ABOUT ME?

OF COURSE NOT.

OH.

WONDER GIRL. KID FLASH. SOLSTICE.

DID HE TELL YOU ABOUT ME?

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO. THE STATUE OF LIBERTY PLAQUE...?

OH.

NONE OF YOU ARE RED ROBIN. I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE TIME...

HE LEFT A NUMBER TO CALL

IN CASE WE NEEDED HELP

AND WE NEED HELP

SO WE CALLED YOU

BUT PRETENDED TO BE HIM

THAT WAS MY IDEA

SO YOU WOULDN'T BLOW US OFF.





AND YOU  
HAVEN'T

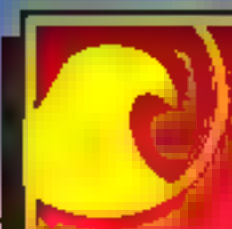
WHICH  
MAKES  
ME

WANT  
TO HUG  
YOU!

FKZZTT

WAIT---

YOW!



SO FIGURE EITHER CASSIE  
TRIES TO THROW DOWN FIRST  
OR BART TRIES TO HUG HER

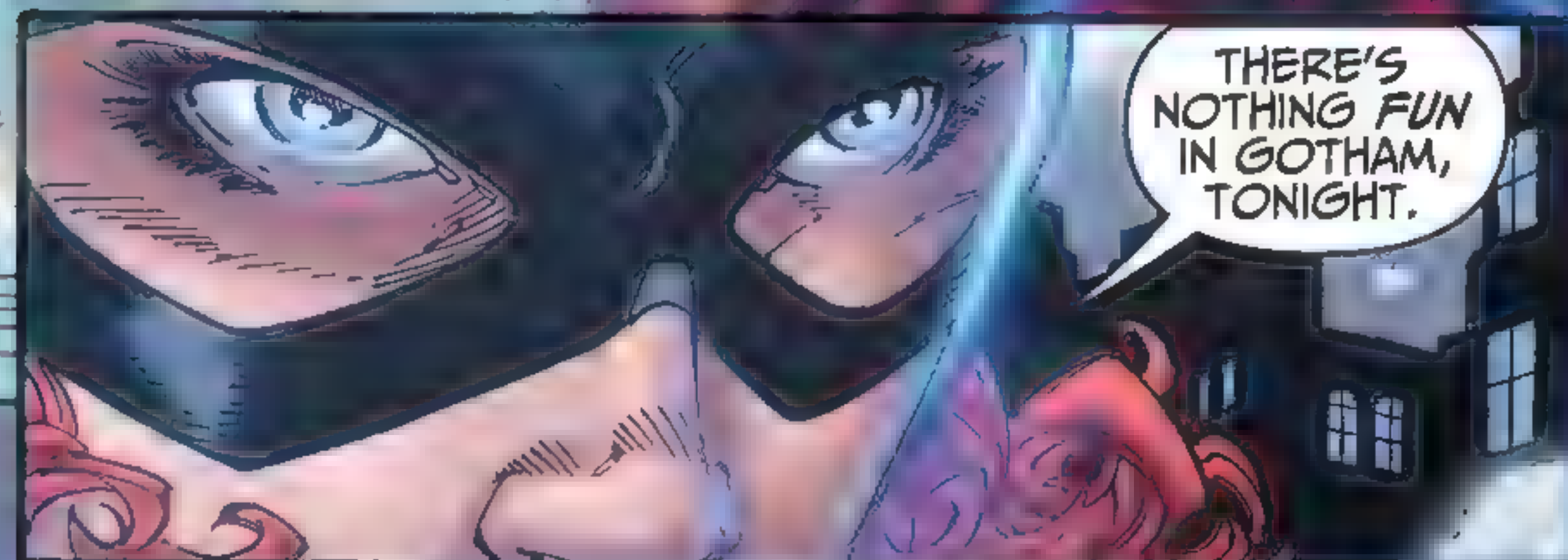
THE BLAST-PADS BUILT  
INTO BARBARA'S SUIT WILL  
COME AS A SURPRISE

MORON.

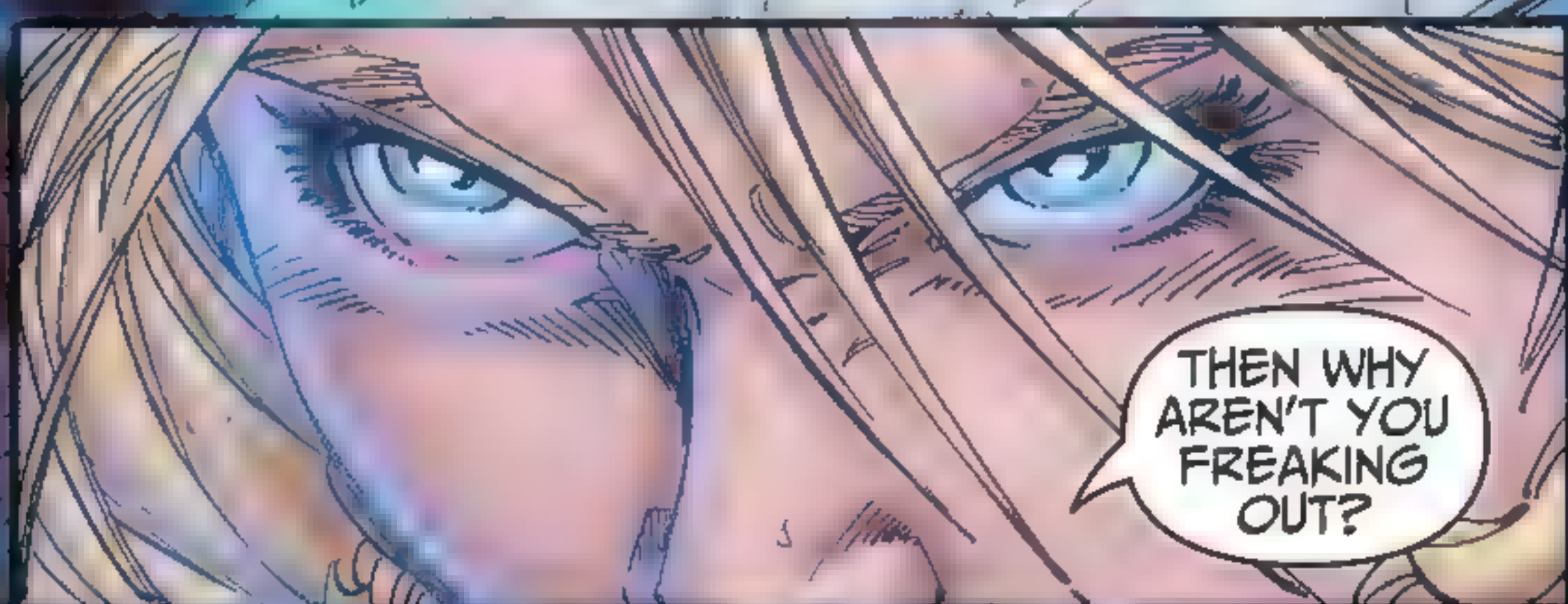
LOOK, YOUR CONTACT NAME  
IS THE ONLY ONE IN HIS BAT-  
PHONE-THINGIE THAT WASN'T  
IN CODE.

I'M JUST  
TRYING TO  
CONVINCE HER  
WE'RE ALL ON  
THE SAME  
SIDE.

SCOTT'S  
TOYS WAS THE  
ONLY FUN PLACE  
I COULD FIND  
IN GOTHAM.



THERE'S  
NOTHING FUN  
IN GOTHAM,  
TONIGHT.



THEN WHY  
AREN'T YOU  
FREAKING  
OUT?

BECAUSE I  
DON'T WANT TO  
SCARE A BUNCH  
OF KIDS TO  
DEATH.

OR I'M SCARED  
TO DEATH MYSELF  
AND I'M TRYING NOT  
TO SHOW IT.  
WHATEVER...

... SOMEONE  
NEEDS ME RIGHT  
NOW.

WAIT--  
MISS BATGIRL--  
RED ROBIN IS  
MISSING--WE  
THINK HE WAS  
KIDNAPPED--  
BUT WE'RE NOT  
SURE--

SOMETIMES, HE  
JUST DISAPPEARS--  
COMO UN BRUJO--  
BUT, THIS TIME...





THIS TIME,  
IT'S THE  
**JOKER**

SHE'LL  
JUST SAY  
IT BLUNTLY

IT'S WHAT THEY  
SUSPECTED.  
WHAT THEY WERE  
AFRAID OF

THEY'LL  
THINK I'M  
ALREADY  
DEAD

OR THAT  
I SOON  
WILL BE

IF JUST HIS NAME  
HAS THAT EFFECT.  
IMAGINE WHAT  
SEEING HIM  
FACE-TO-FACE  
FEELS LIKE

AFTER  
HIS FACE WAS  
SKINNED OFF,  
JOKER WENT MISSING  
FOR A YEAR. HE  
CAME BACK IN A  
BIG WAY.

HE ATTACKED  
COMMISSIONER GORDON'S  
OFFICE A FEW NIGHTS AGO.  
KILLED NINETEEN POLICE  
OFFICERS.

HE INVADIED  
BRUCE WAYNE'S  
HOME FOR SUPPORTING  
BATMAN, INC.

HE HAS BEEN  
RELENTLESS. MORE  
FOCUSED THAN  
USUAL...

JOKER'S PLANS WILL  
CONFUSE THEM. THERE'S  
NO LOGIC TO ANY OF IT

UNLESS YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
THE JOKER

WE  
HAVE SOME  
SERIOUS  
WORK AHEAD  
OF US...





IN MY DREAMS, THEY COME TOGETHER--  
WORK OUT A PLAN--

--TO HELP ME, TO STOP THE JOKER

TAPTH

IN MY DREAMS, THE CITY IS SAFE

I HEAR SIRENS OUTSIDE, LIGHTS SPUTTER, SPOTS DANCING IN MY CLOSED EYES AND THE WIND--  
I KNOW THAT SOUND--

--THE WAY IT WHISTLES BETWEEN 5TH AND BRANHOUSE STREETS

TAPTH

IN THE OLD DIAMOND DISTRICT

IT'S TIME FOR DREAMS TO END--  
TIME TO WAKE UP--

TO A NIGHTMARE!

JOKER...?

HE PUT ME IN MY ORIGINAL RED ROBIN ARMOR

HE'S TRYING TO--RECREATE SOMETHING?--  
OR FIND A COMFORT ZONE IN THE PAST?

WHERE ARE YOU--?

I DON'T WANT HIM TO ANSWER  
I DON'T WANT HIM TO BE HERE

BUT I KNOW THAT HE IS--

THE PRODIGAL SON AWAKENS...





WAIT, WOULD THAT BE THE SECOND BRAT?

WHAT SHOULD WE CALL THE THIRD SON? LATE FOR DINNER?

HE WEARS MY GLIDER CAPE AS IF IT'S AN INSULT

AS IF THE THINGS MAKE ME

LOOK AT YOOOU. ALWAYS SO SERIOUS! THE FIRST ANNOYED WITH QUIP AND QUICKNESS, THE SECOND EARNED HIS ANGER AND PAIN--(AND ULTIMATELY HIS DEATH)--BUT YOU...

... YOU HAVE ALWAYS BORED ME WITH YOUR PERFECTION, THAT ARROGANT FLAUNTING OF HOW MUCH BETTER YOU THINK YOU ARE THAN EVERYONE ELSE.

IT REALLY IS UNDISCIPLINED, BOY. AND IF THERE IS ONE THING I RESPECT THE OODLES OUT OF... IT IS. DISCIPLINE.

THE BAT-KING'S DISCIPLINE.

BUT YOU... ALL OF YOU... HAVE TAKEN THAT FROM HIM! THE TIME HAS COME TO GIVE IT BACK.

THERE'S THE GAME. WE WEAKEN BATMAN. WEAKEN HIS EFFECTIVENESS.

KILLING US WILL MAKE BATMAN STRONGER, WHICH WILL MAKE THE GAME BETTER FOR JOKER.

HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE'S RIGHT. SO, HOW TO PLAY THIS?

AND YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT, DON'T YOU, HEE HEE?!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ACTED SO ABOVE THE NEEDS THAT HAVE WEAKENED MY DARLING.

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEFT BY CHOICE. BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW.

WHAT?

HONESTLY... YOU DON'T PLAN TO CALL YOURSELVES THE TEEN TITANS, DO YOU...?

NO... OH NO, HE KNOWS... HE IS GOING TO TRY TO GET AT ME



BY GETTING AT THEM!

I WANT TO SPLIT UP OUR FORCES, COVER MORE GROUND.

YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW THE CITY, DO YOU? A MAP SURE WOULD HELP...

SCOTT'S STRINGS

ONE MAP...

...COMING UP!

...  
GO, BLADES...?

I'VE GOT MY OWN ISSUES TO DEAL WITH, SO I CAN'T JOIN YOU.

BUT THE JOKER HAS ESTABLISHED A PATTERN--HE'S REVISITING PLACES WHERE HE'D COMMITTED PREVIOUS CRIMES.

I'LL MARK EIGHT POTENTIAL SITES--YOU SPLIT UP TO COVER THE TERRITORY BY AIR AND GROUND.

KID FLASH AND SOLSTICE, TAKE THESE HERE SINCE THEY WERE FIRST FLOOR OR TUNNEL JOBS.

WONDER GIRL, BUNKER, SCOUT BY AIR. PENTHOUSE JOBS, ELEVATED TRAINS...

HOW MANY CRIMES HAS THIS MANIAC COMMITTED?





TOO MANY, BUNKER.

GOOD LUCK.

WAIT, I WAS---

NEVER MIND.

YOU WERE GOING TO ASK FOR AN AUTOGRAPH?

BATGIRL, WAIT UP!

NO!

YES.

STAY IN TOUCH, GUYS. CALL EVERY TEN MINUTES.

WHAT IS IT? YOU HAVE ASSIGNMENTS.

OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO QUESTIONS EVERYTHING.

YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT THAT. I NEED TO KNOW--

--I NEED TO PREPARE THEM...

...WHAT ARE THE ODDS HE'S STILL ALIVE?

ACTUALLY, BETTER THAN YOU'D EXPECT.

JOKER IS A PSYCHOPATH LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, BUT HE USUALLY LIKES TO TALK A LOT BEFORE ACTING.

USUALLY.

PRAY THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

WHY WERE YOU IN HER GRILL, CASSIE? SHE IS SO TOTALLY AMAZING!

PUT THE PARADE AWAY, MIGUEL.

LET'S GET MOVING. SHE SAID WE HAVE A CHANCE--



IF WE  
ACT FAST!

YOU  
DOING OKAY,  
KIRAN?

YES--  
THIS IS--  
AMAZING!

NEVER  
REALLY  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT  
IT...

...UNTIL  
NOW...

... WHOA--  
UP AHEAD--

I DON'T  
SEE ANY--

--THING.

OKAY,  
THIS IS THE  
WAYON HOUSING  
COMPLEX BATGIRL  
POINTED  
OUT.





WITH  
STATUES OF  
ROBINS AT  
THE GATE?

ISN'T  
THAT A BIT...  
OBVIOUS?

BEATS  
ME, I DON'T  
SPEAK  
LOCO.

SEE, MIGUEL'S  
BEEN TEACHING  
ME ESPAÑOL.

YOU  
CHECK THE  
FRONT, I'LL  
CHECK EVERY  
OTHER  
ANGLE.

WAIT,  
I DON'T  
KNOW IF WE  
SHOULD  
SPLIT--

--UP...?

NEVER  
MIND.

THEY'LL  
HIT JOKER'S  
PREVIOUS CRIME  
SCENES. BART CAN  
COVER A LOT OF  
GROUND.

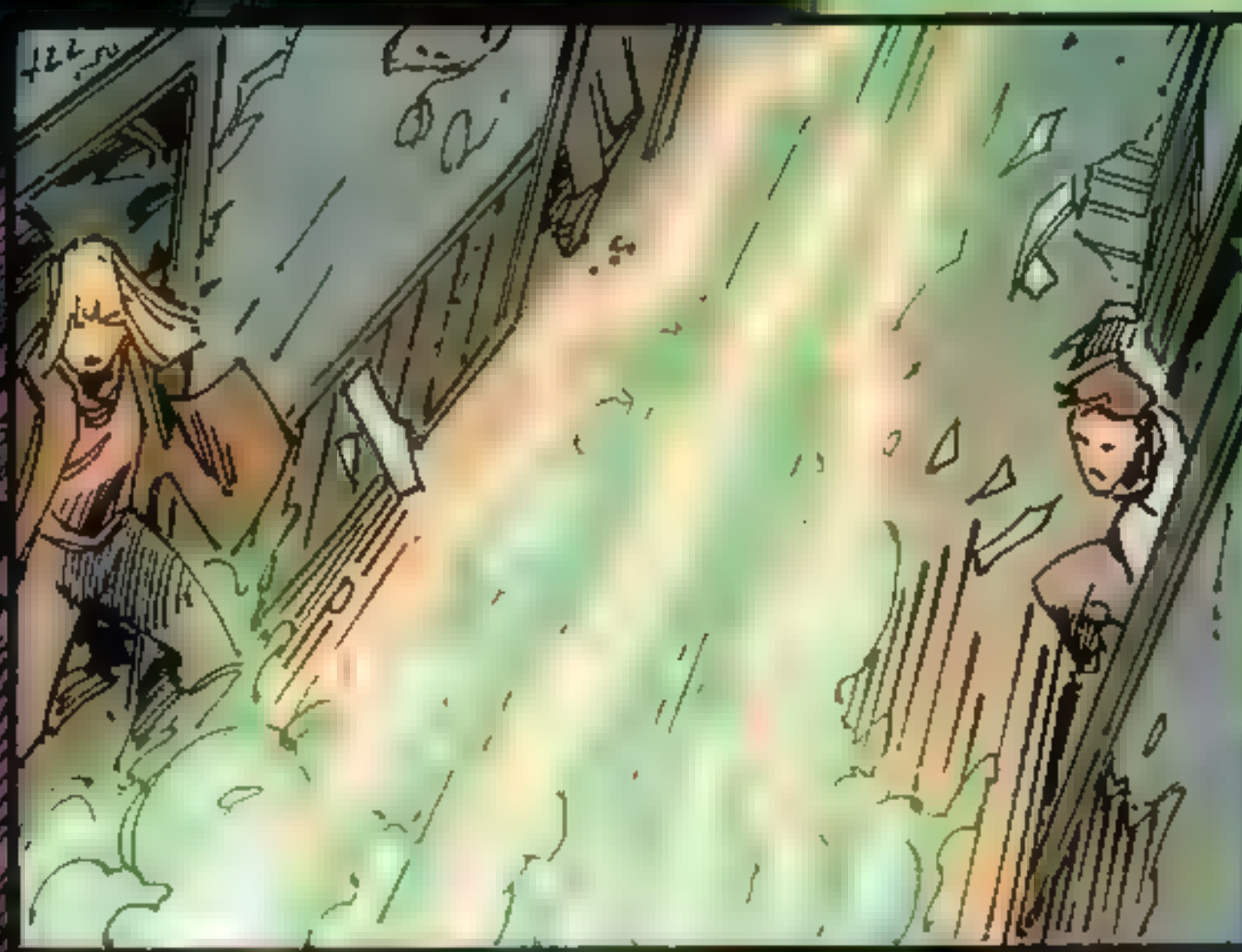
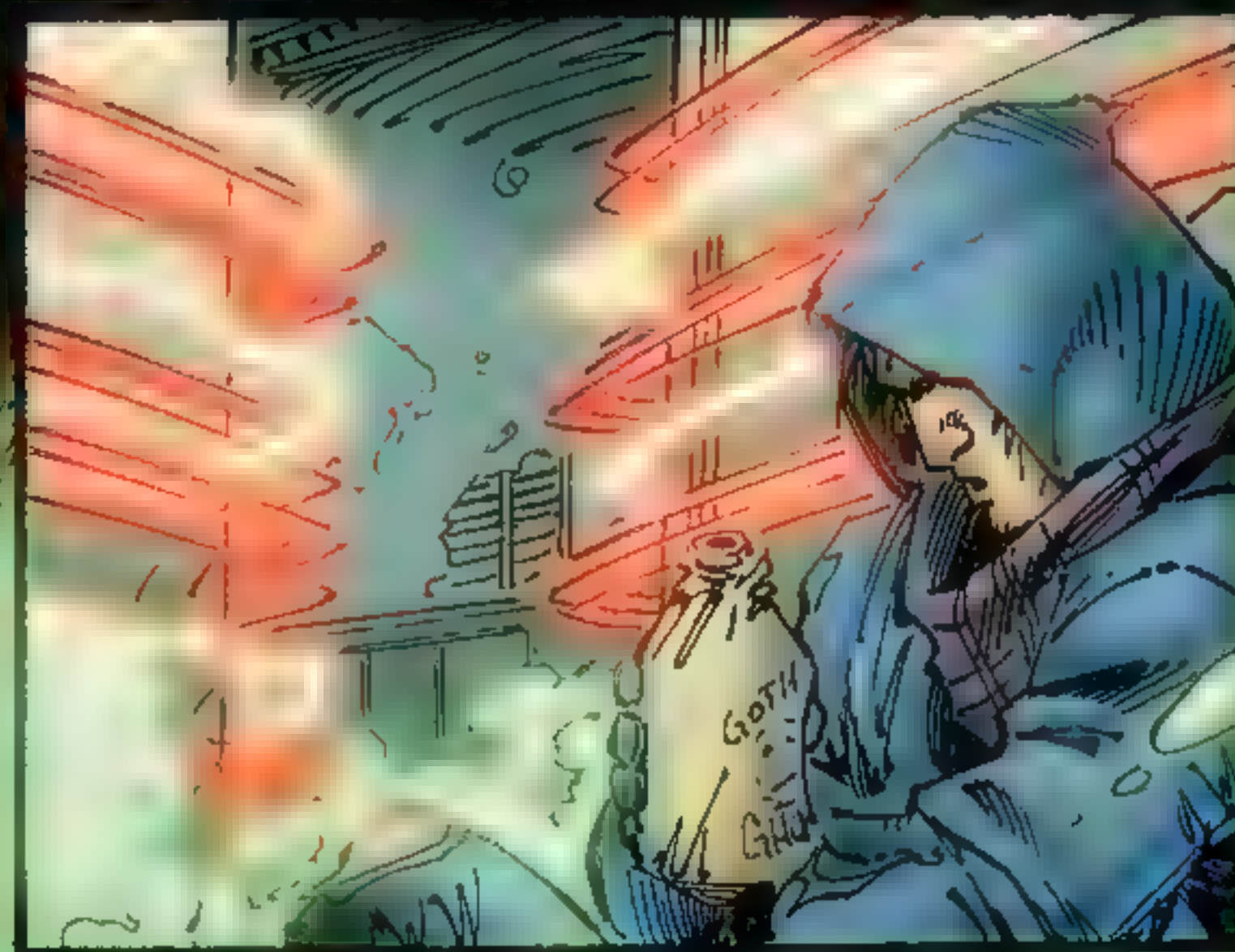
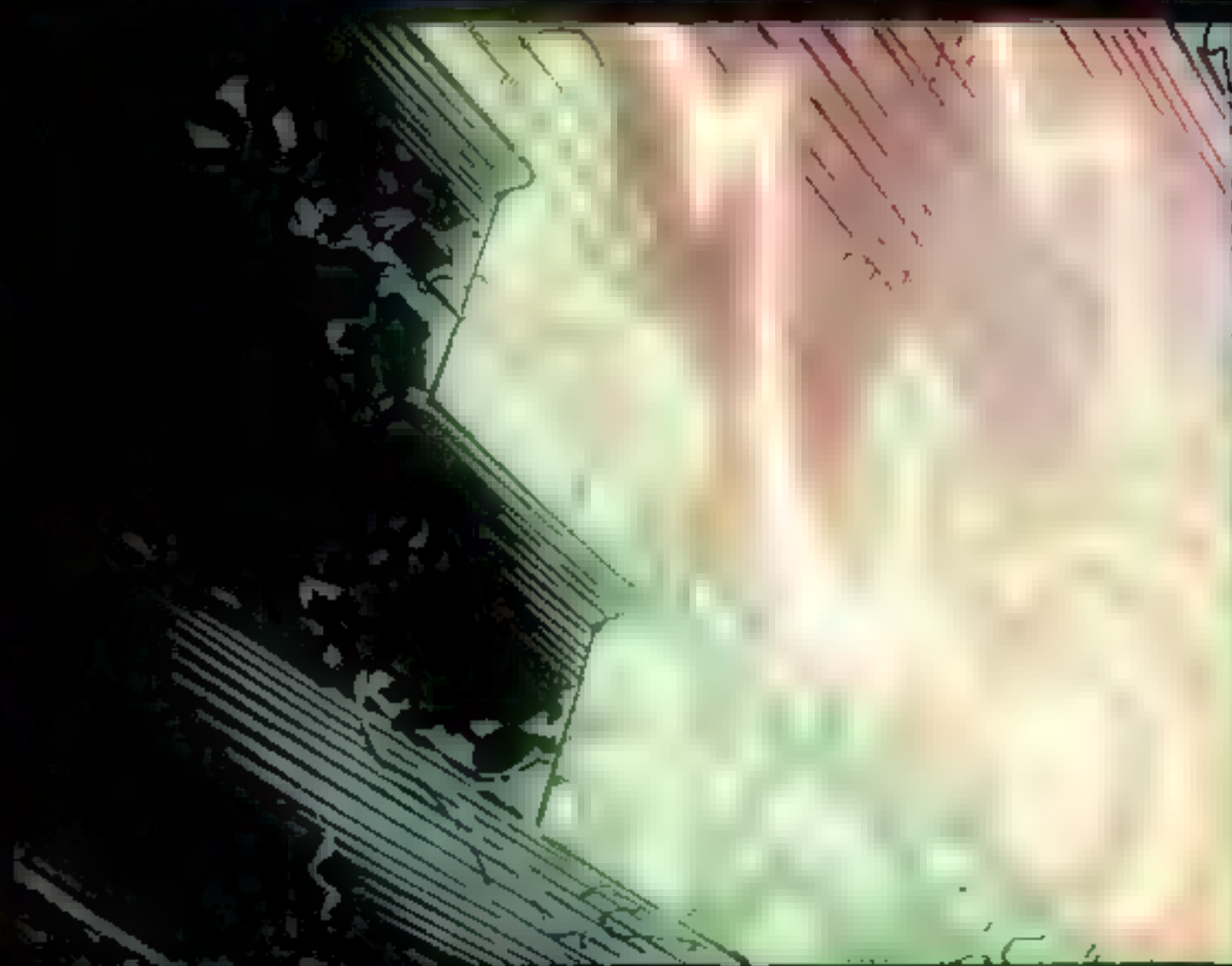
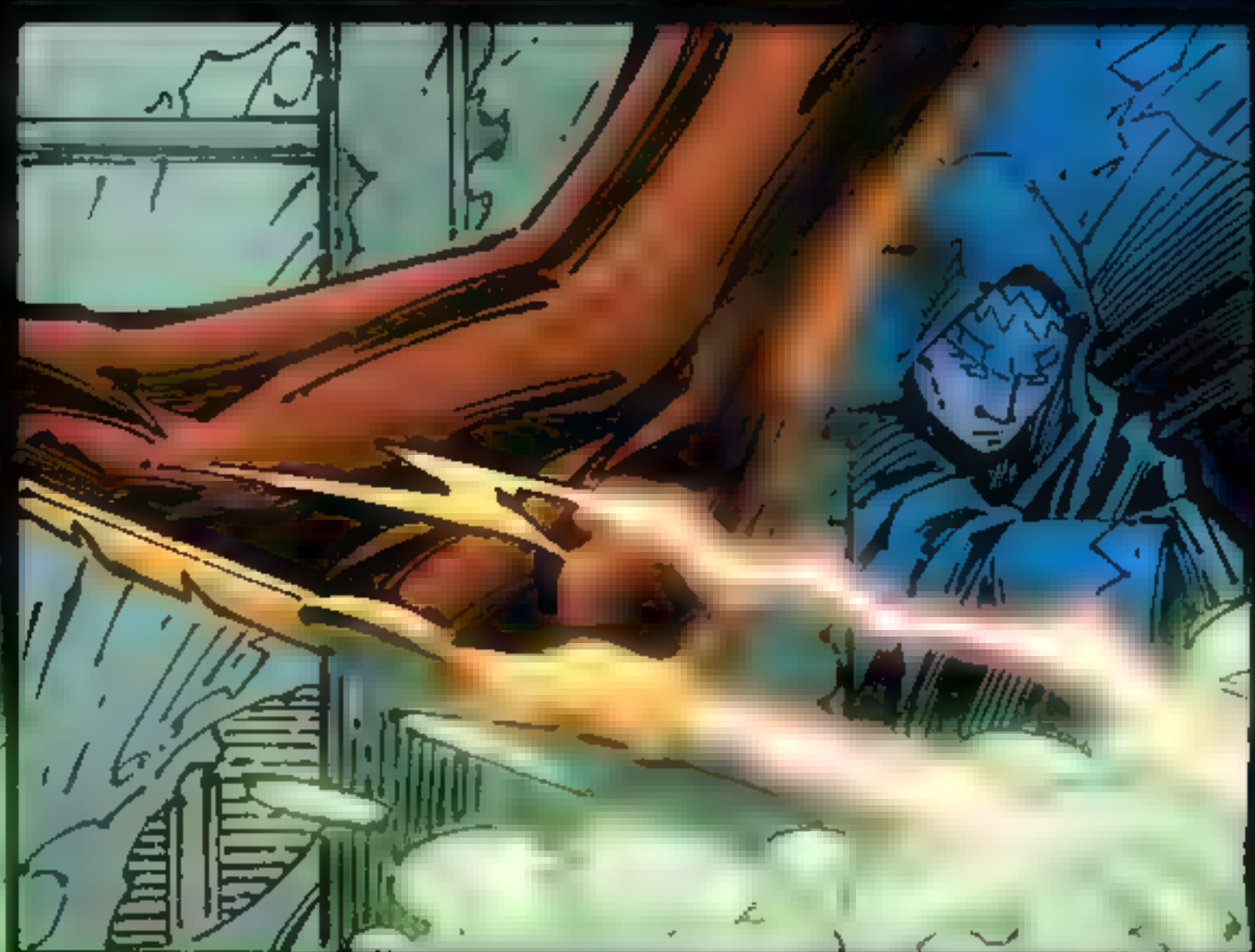
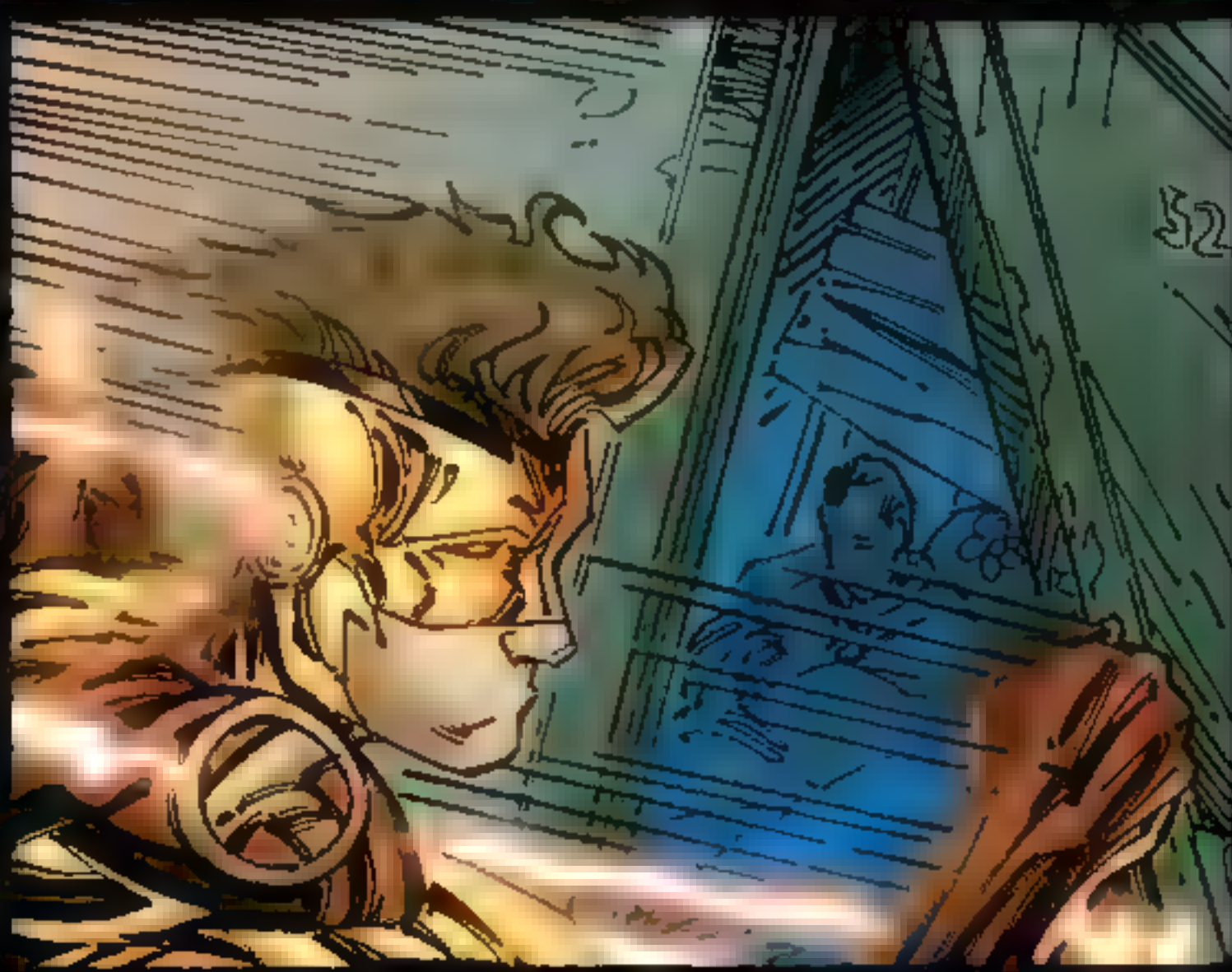
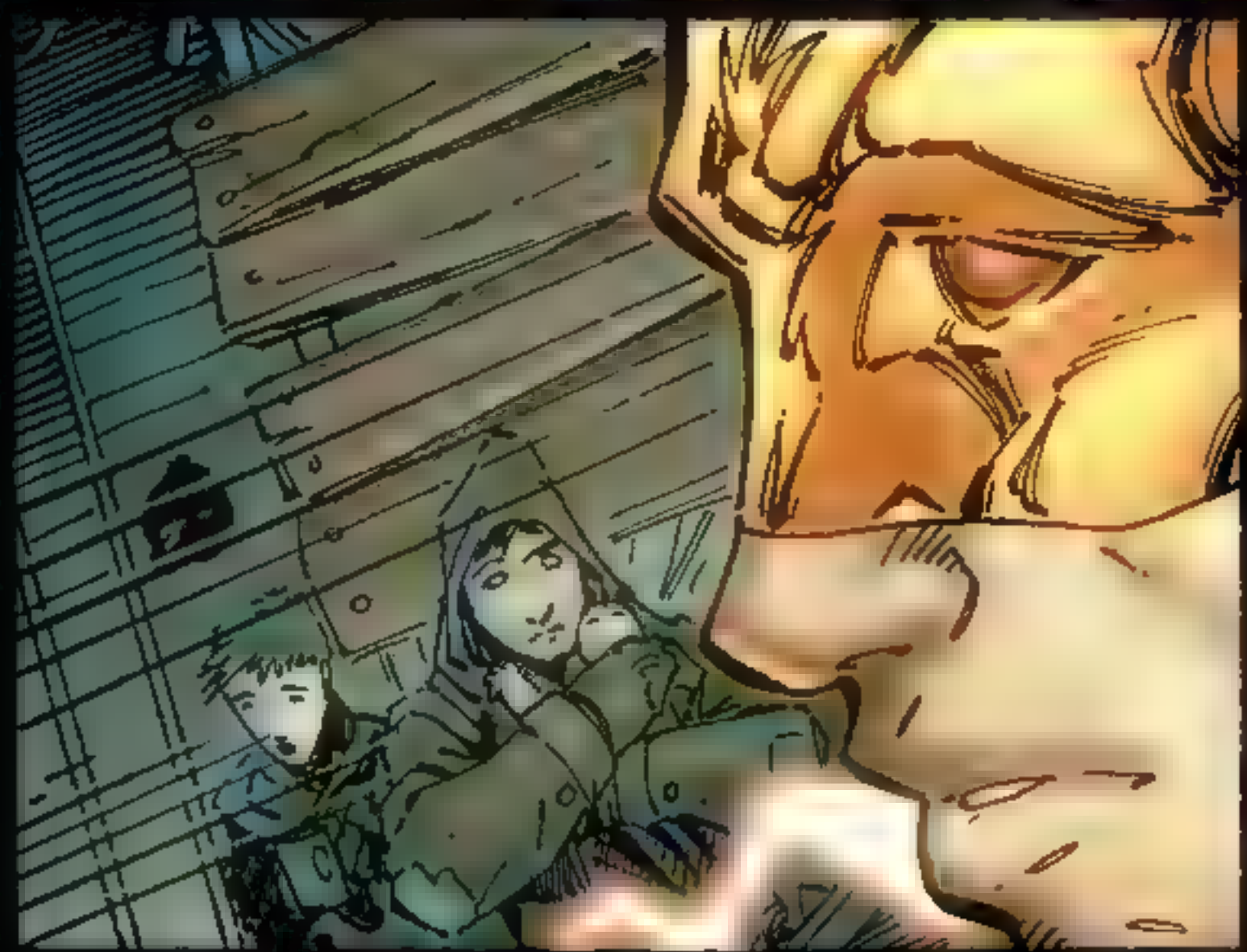
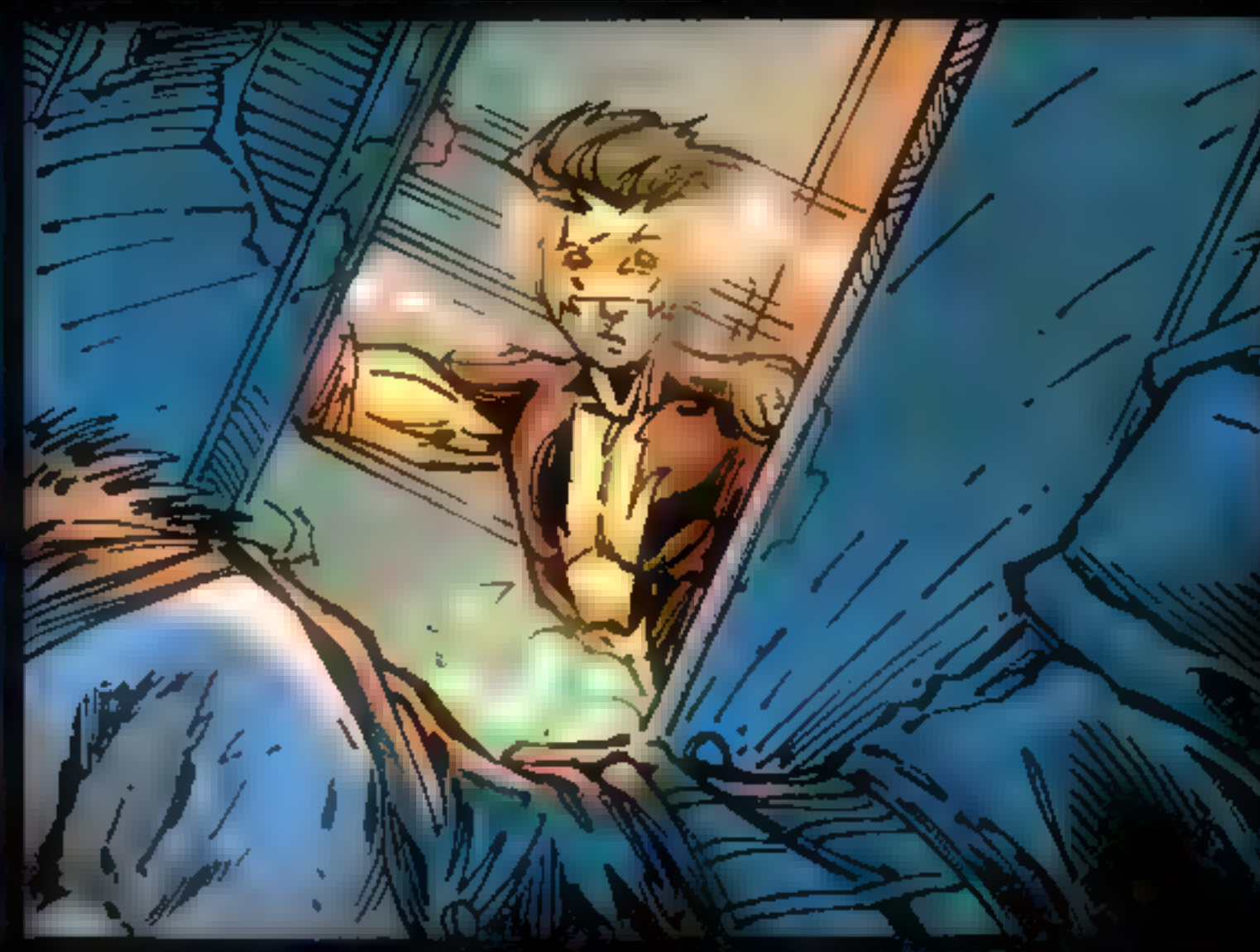
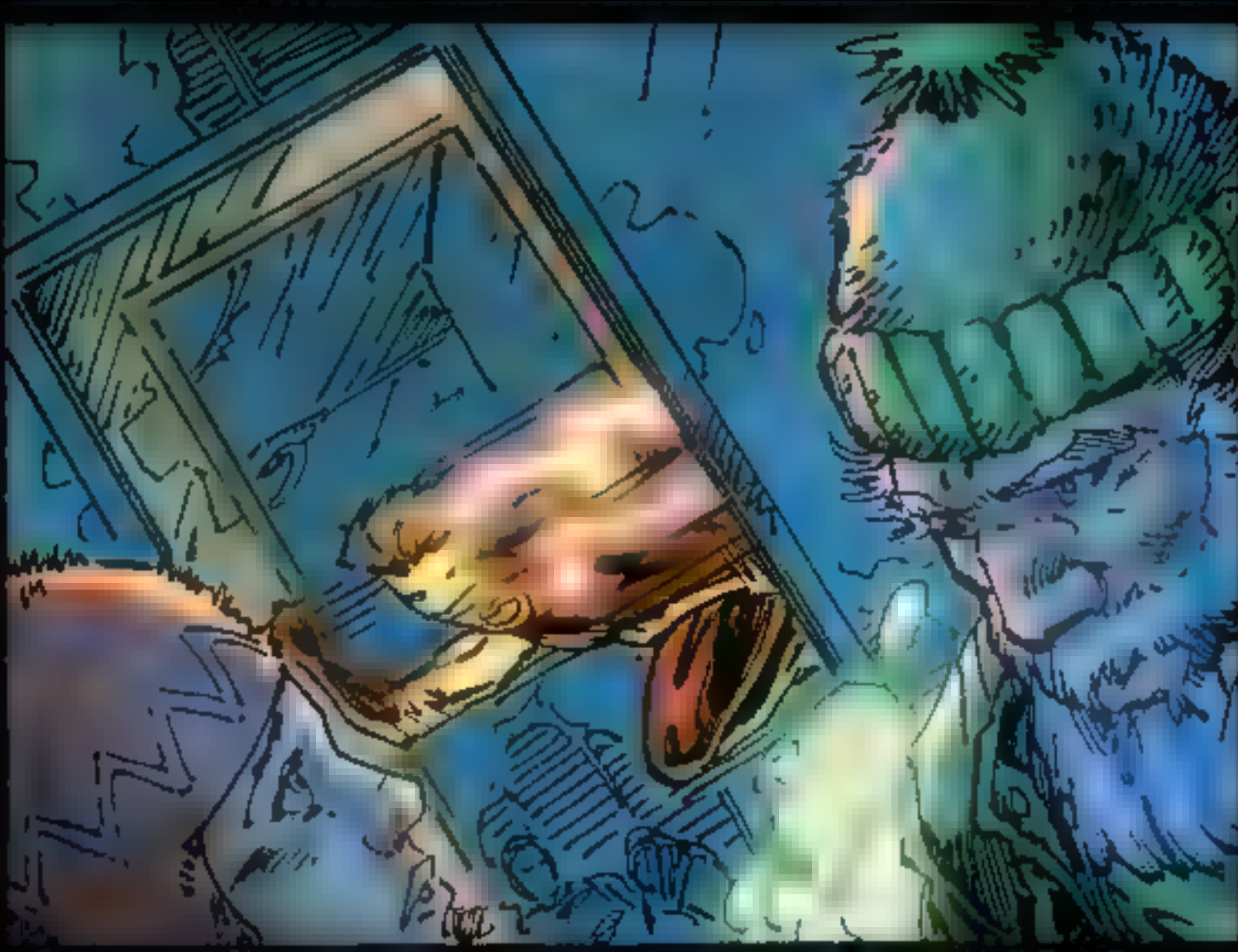
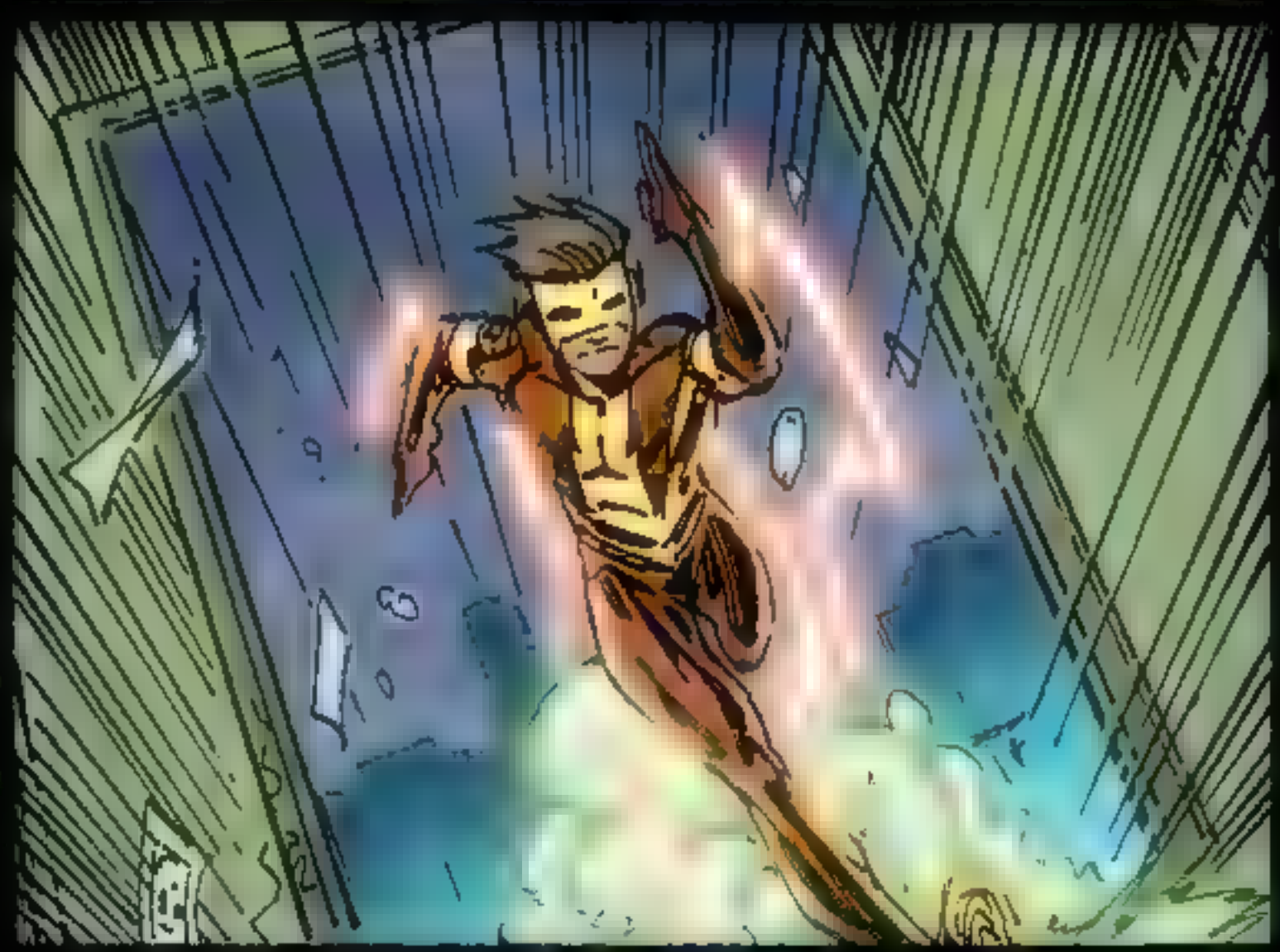
...LIKE THE SITE  
OF THE ORPHEUS  
MURDER

KENNMANN COMMONS  
WHERE MAYOR  
DICKERSON WAS  
ASSASSINATED

THE HEADLEY  
STATION WHERE THE  
METROCARD MACHINES  
ELECTROCUTED  
TEN PEOPLE

AND THE WAYON  
APARTMENTS...





WHICH WERE  
ABANDONED AFTER A  
HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN  
PEOPLE DIED WHEN PHOSGENE  
WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE  
CENTRAL HEATING DUCTS

SEE  
ANYTHING?

ONLY  
SADNESS.

ME  
TOO.

THAT'S THE  
NEXT CLOSEST  
LOCATION  
THERE...

YEAH...  
UHM... I THINK THE  
NATIVES ARE  
RESTLESS...

THEY WON'T FIND  
ME IN ANY OF  
THOSE PLACES—  
AND JOKER  
KNOWS THAT.



SO WHAT DOES HE GET OUT OF SENDING THEM ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE?

WOOO-HOOO!  
YEEEEWW-WYEEEOOO!

I LOVE THIS CAPE! I CAN FLY--  
HAHA!

NO WONDER YOU LIKE TO LOOK DOWN AT ALL THE LITTLE PEOPLE! HOW CAN YOU NOT, RIGHT?

WHY, WITH THIS BIRD'S-EYE VIEW, I CAN SEE YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS IN THEIR LITTLE LEOTARDS.

RUNNING THIS WAY AND THAT, TO AND FRO, HELTER SKELTER...

... WHY, WHATEVER COULD THEY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

KKRYEEK  
NRYEEK  
KRYEK

I WONDER, HMMHMM...?

WILL IT BE HARD, YOU THINK, KNOWING THAT THEY'LL DIE NEVER HEARING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU?

WHAT TRUTH?

YOUR REAL NAME.



SSPPPOINGGG

YEE-  
HOOO!

WHAT  
AN ABSOLUTELY  
DELICIOUS DRAMATIC  
MOMENT! LOOK AT  
THAT PUCKERED,  
FURROWED  
BROW!

DOES HE  
KNOW?

"DOES  
HE KNOW?"  
YOU'RE ASKING  
YOURSELF?

NO, HE  
CAN'T

"NO, HE  
CAN'T," YOU SAY.  
BECAUSE YOU HAVE  
TO BELIEVE THAT,  
RIGHT?

BECAUSE THE  
ALTERNATIVE...

...WHY, IMAGINE... YEARS AND YEARS OF  
PAIN AND SACRIFICE--NOT TO MENTION  
WEARING ITCHY TIGHTS--

--WAS REDUCED  
TO LITTLE MORE THAN  
SCRIBBLES IN A BATTERED  
BOOK IN THE HANDS OF A  
LOONEY TUNE?  
HAHAHA!

BY THE BY, THE KNOT IN YOUR  
GUT RIGHT NOW IS CALLED  
ABJECT FEAR.

TASTES A  
BIT LIKE CHLORINE AND  
BEETS, RIGHT?

HE'S  
LYING

"HE'S  
LYING!" YOU  
SAY.

WELL,  
WHAT IF I'M  
NOT?

LET'S  
LOOK AT HOW  
I REACTED TO THE  
THREAT POSED BY  
THE TEEN--

HOO HA  
HAW HAW  
HAW!

I'M SORRY  
=SORRY= I LIED  
ALREADY...

...AS IF YOUR  
ABSURD BIEBER-BAND  
COULD POSE ANY THREAT  
AT ALL--TO ME!



BUT  
THE THREAT THEY  
POSE TO THE CITY,  
WHY, THAT IS  
STAGGERING!

HAVE  
YOU FIGURED  
IT OUT? YES,  
YOU'VE FIGURED  
IT OUT.

HOW BEST  
TO HURT YOU?  
BY MAKING YOUR  
PIMPLE PATROL THE  
VERY CAUSE OF  
YOUR AGITA.

YOU KNOW THE  
FIELD OF SCREAMS,  
RIGHT? "IF YOU  
KIDNAP HIM, THEY  
WILL COME"---?

AND SURE,  
THEY'LL SEPARATE  
TO COVER MORE  
GROUND.

BUT WHAT IF  
THE FAST BRAT,  
LITTLE LIGHTNING--  
WHATEVER HIS NAME IS--  
WERE TO ACCIDENTALLY  
STEP IN MAGIC  
FAIRY DUST?

AND THEN  
SPREAD IT WITH  
EVERY STEP HE TOOK,  
KICKING UP QUITE  
A STIR.

THOSE  
PARTICLES WERE ALL  
STIRRED UP, TOSSED  
ABOUT AND THEN...  
BREATHED IN...

AND ANYONE  
TAKING A DEEP BREATH  
WILL HAVE THAT FEELING OF  
UNFETTERED LIBERATION  
THAT I DO SO  
ENJOY!

YOU  
SON OF  
A--

AH,  
AH, LANGUAGE,  
LANGUAGE!

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
BE UPSET. YOU  
SHOULD BE  
PROUD.

AFTER ALL,  
IT'S THE RARE  
TALENT THAT CAN  
ORGANIZE A HARDY  
BAND OF SCOUTS  
WHO CAN CLAIM  
RESPONSIBILITY...



"...FOR  
KILLING A  
CITY!"

GOTHAM  
CAN EVEN  
MANAGE TO MAKE  
THEIR AVIARY  
DEPRESSING.

QUIET,  
MIGUEL...

...BART ISN'T  
ANSWERING MY  
CALL.

DID YOU TRY  
SOLSTICE? OH,  
RIGHT. NOWHERE  
TO CARRY A  
PHONE.

IF THERE  
IS ONE THING  
THAT SCARES  
ME MORE THAN  
THE JOKER, IT'S  
SILENCE COMING  
OUT OF  
BART...

THOOM

GREAT  
TIMING.

THAT  
WAS KIRAN'S  
POWER SIGNATURE.  
BIGGER THAN  
USUAL, TOO.

CAN  
YOUR PSIONIC  
BRICK-THINGS  
KEEP UP?

DOES  
YOUR SILENT  
ARMOR  
ALSO WORK  
ON YOUR  
MOUTH?





MY  
BLAST DIDN'T  
SCARE THEM  
OFF!  
I'M AFRAID  
OF HURTING  
THEM...

I CAN  
MAYBE VIBRATE  
US OUT--BUT I  
DON'T KNOW--

--I FEEL--  
FASTER  
SOMEHOW--IF I  
CAN'T CONTROL MY  
POWER, I MIGHT  
BLOW THEM  
ALL UP!

--COULD  
JOKER'S POISON  
BE DOING THIS  
TO US--

OR COULD IT  
BE SOMETHING  
ELSE?



CHECK OUT BIRDS OF PREY #15  
FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING!--ED



AAYAA!

OKAY,  
MAYBE  
PUMMELING  
WORKS...



THEY'RE NOT READY  
FOR SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS

WE HAVEN'T  
HAD TIME TO  
GET US READY



WITHOUT  
ME THERE TO  
LEAD THEM--

THEY'LL BE  
OVERWHELMED--  
OR FORCED TO HURT  
INNOCENT PEOPLE



WITHOUT  
ME THERE



WHAT HOPE  
DOES GOTHAM  
CITY HAVE?

HEY, KIDS!  
WELCOME TO  
PROFESSOR  
ARSENAL'S  
SCHOOL  
OF HARD  
KNOCKS!

CLASS IS  
IN SESSION.

ANYONE  
WHO WANTS  
TO BE RESCUED,  
RAISE YOUR  
HANDS...

THIS IS TURNING  
OUT TO BE QUITE  
THE NIGHTMARE

DO THE **TITANS** GET  
SCHOOLED? FIND OUT IN  
**RED HOOD**  
**OUTLAWS #16--**  
**ON SALE IN**  
**THREE WEEKS!**



I SEE  
YOU'RE READY  
TO START!

ARM OUT,  
STIFF BACK,  
HAHAHA!

Stay focused, Bruce.  
You got here before  
he was ready for you.

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU  
LIKE TO LEAD, BATSSSS, BUT  
SINCE YOU'RE SO RUSTY, I THINK  
I'LL LEAD THIS TIME!

Just stay one step  
ahead of him.

FASTER? YOU WANT TO  
GO FASTER?! LET'SSSSS!  
ONE, TWO, THREE,  
ONE, TWO, THREE!

You've got the advantage.

Hold on to it.

AW, DON'T  
BE SO RIGID, OLD  
FRIEND. LET GO  
A LITTLE!

LET THE MUSIC  
MOVE YOU, LET THE  
MOOD SWAY YOU.  
A ROYAL DANCE  
MACABRE!

Don't listen to him.

A DANCE OF  
THE DEAD, BEFORE  
THE KING! A DANCE  
OF PEASANTS, OF  
SERVANTSSSS.

Don't think of Alfred.

Don't think  
of the family.

Don't let him throw you.  
You know this place, inside  
and out. You know the walls,  
the hallways, the cracks.

SHHH. DON'T  
BE DISTRACTED,  
DARLING!

YOU HAVE  
RETURNED FROM  
ABROAD, FROM  
DISTANT REALMS,  
TO YOUR  
CASTLE...



DC COMICS presents BATMAN in

# DEATH OF THE FAMILY CASTLE OF CARDS

...AND THEY  
DANCE TO WELCOME  
YOU HOME! HOME TO  
ARKHAM ASYLUM!

SCOTT SNYDER writer

GREG CAPULLO penciller

JONATHAN GLAPION inker

HELP US...  
PLEASE.  
WE'VE BEEN  
DANCING FOR  
DAYS.

The men in the cells.  
I know them all,  
their histories.

Ronnell Peters. The guards  
with no families. The ones  
no one would miss past  
a few simple excuses.

The glass is super  
grade polycarbonate.  
I could shatter it,  
but the embedded  
steel netting would  
keep them caged.

FEO PLASCENCIA colorist

He's running current into the  
water on the floor. Push of  
a button could kill them all.

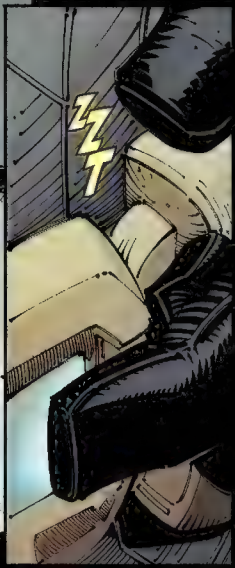
THAT'S RIGHT,  
BATSSS! THEY DANCE  
FOR YOU! THE WHOLE  
PLACE, IT'S ALIVE, ALIVE!  
WITH LOVE FOR YOU,  
THAT IS!

RICHARD STARKINGS  
and COMICRAFT'S  
JIMMY BETANCOURT  
lettering





YOU STOP THEM FROM DANCING, THOUGH, AND AS YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT, I'LL HAVE TO RETIRE THEM ONCE AND FOR--



CRASH

AHHH! AN E.M.P. PULSE! TRYING TO USE MY OWN TRICK AGAINST ME, EH? BAD MOVE, BATSSS!

THE EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEM IS SAFEGUARDED AGAINST CHARGES LIKE THAT.

BATMAN created by BOB KANE



IT'S A NEW MEASURE, WHICH YOU'D KNOW, IF YOU VISITED MORE OFTEN! SIGH...EITHER WAY, I'M AFRAID YOUR DANCERS NEED TO TAKE A BOW NOW!



P-P-PLEASE, NO!  
DON'T DO IT, JOKER!

ZZZTT  
PFFT

WHAT THE--

KATIE KUBERT asst. editor  
MIKE MARTS editor



WE'RE... WE'RE STILL ALIVE. LOOK! THOSE THINGS BATMAN TOSSED IN ABSORBED THE WATER!

INDEED THEY DID! SEE, THAT'S THE BATSSS I REMEMBER! THAT'S WHO I'VE MISSED! FAST AND LEAN! NOW...

CAPULLO & PLASCENCIA cover

ALEX GARNER variant cover



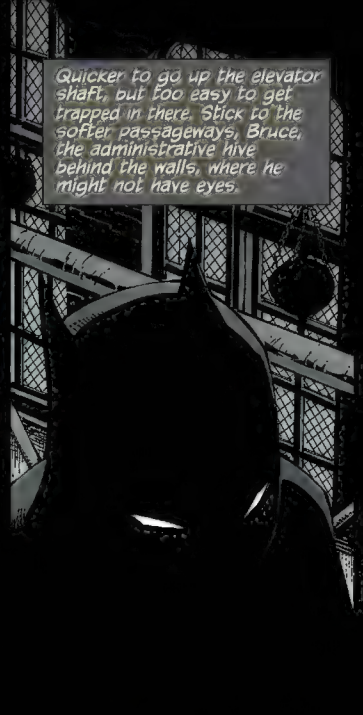


"...WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU SNUCK OFF TO?"



He's somewhere close.

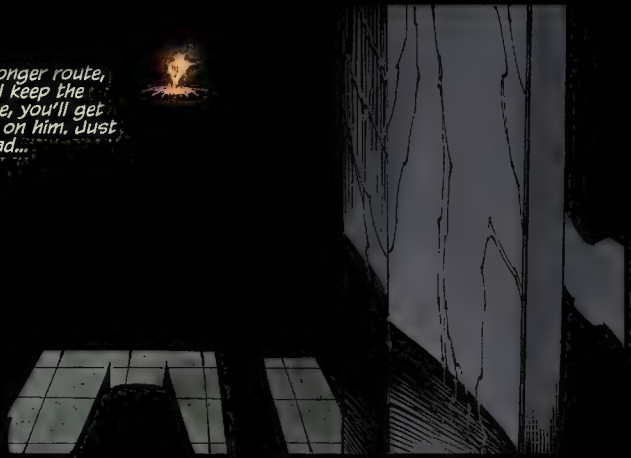
Could be the control room, but more likely, Jeremiah Arkham's personal quarters-- designed as a second command center.



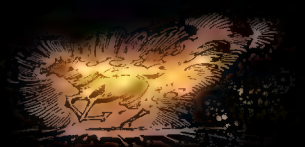
Quicker to go up the elevator shaft, but too easy to get trapped in there. Stick to the softer passageways, Bruce, the administrative hive behind the walls, where he might not have eyes.



It's the longer route, but you'll keep the advantage, you'll get the jump on him. Just stay ahead...



WHAT IN...







CUTTING  
THROUGH THE  
STABLES,  
ARE WE?!

PERFECT! IT'LL  
GIVE YOU A CHANCE  
TO DO A LITTLE  
SPARRING...



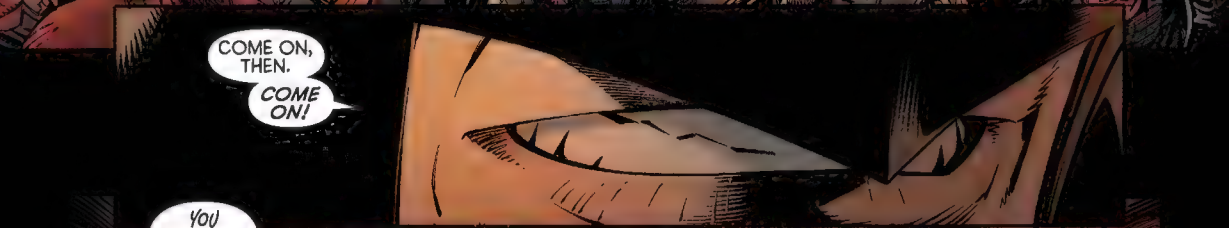




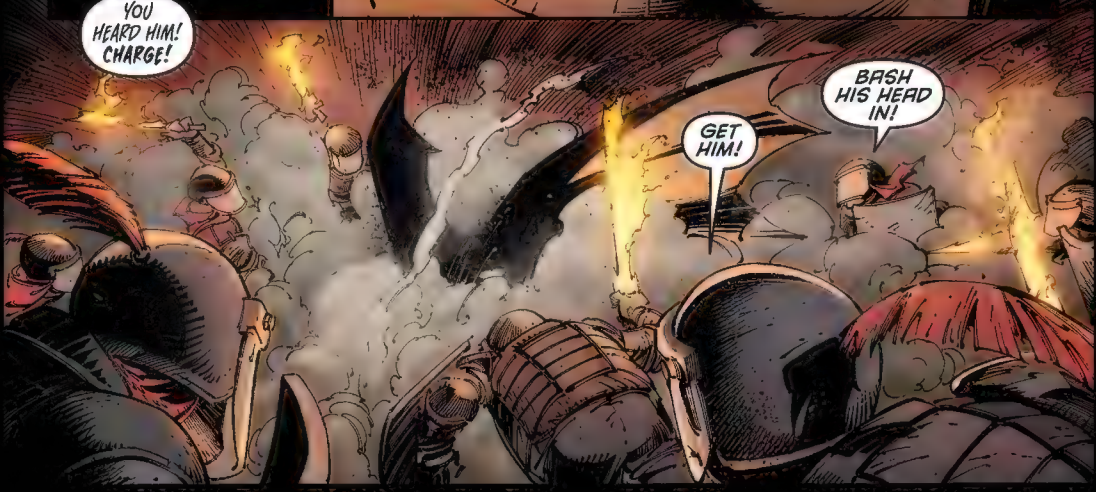
...WITH YOUR  
ROYAL KNIGHTS,  
OF COURSE! THE  
INMATES!

YOUR GALAHADS  
AND GAWAINS AND  
GOONS, OH MY!

I'VE GIVEN  
THEM THEIR ARMOR  
AND SWORDS, AND  
NOW THEY BURN TO  
MAKE YOU STRONG,  
BATSSSS!



COME ON,  
THEN.  
COME  
ON!

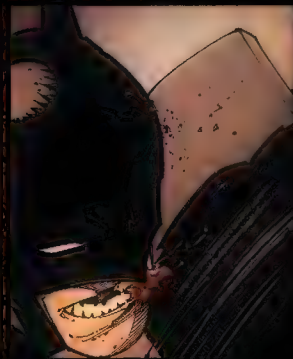
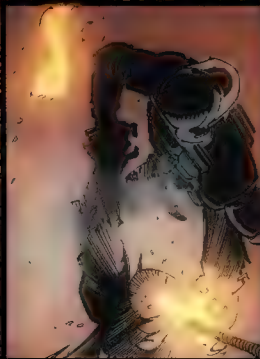
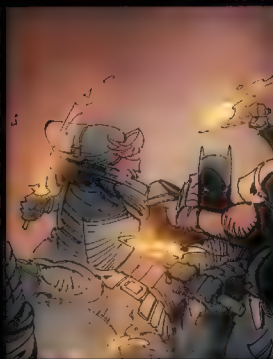
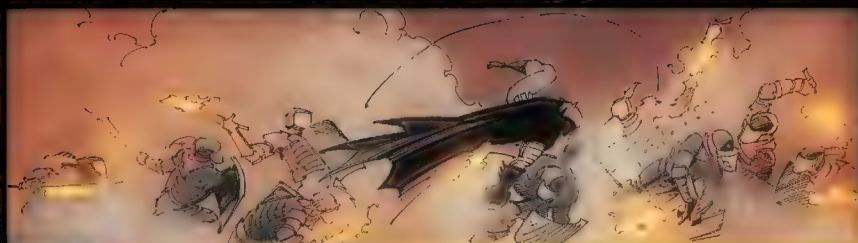


YOU  
HEARD HIM!  
CHARGE!

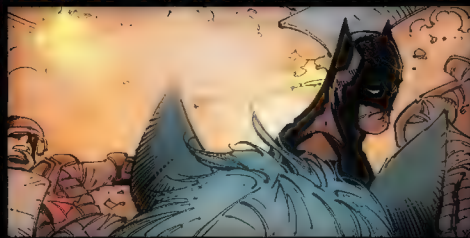
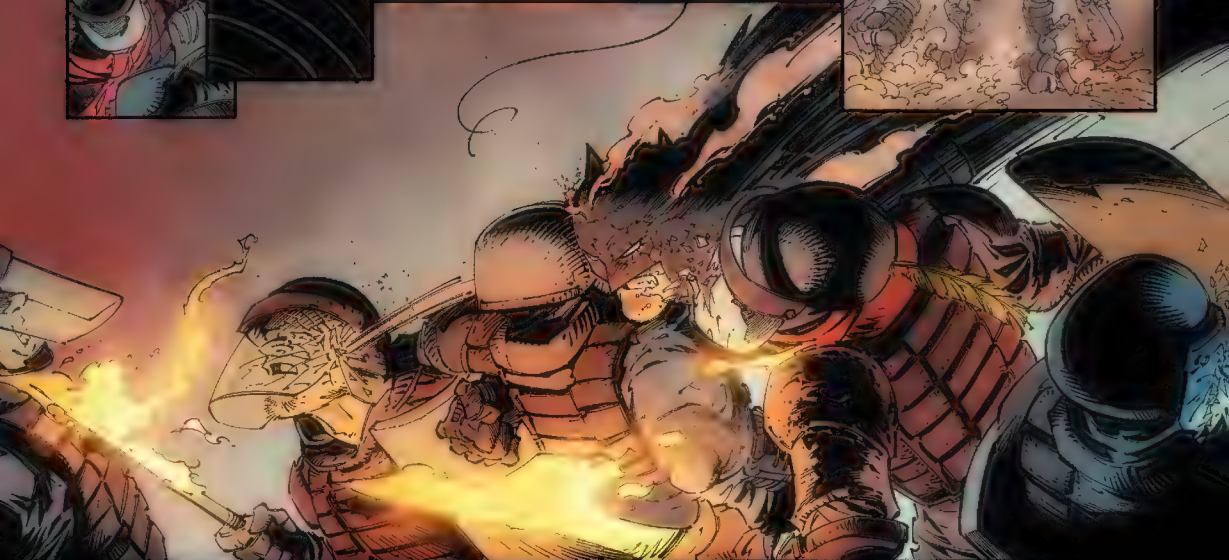
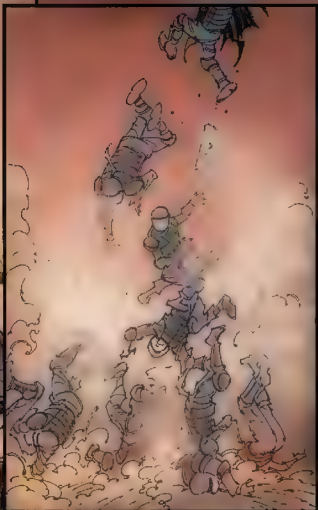
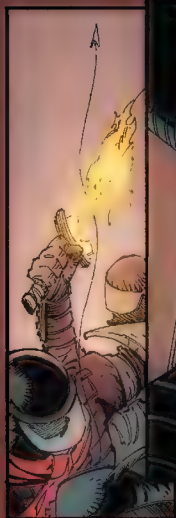
GET  
HIM!

BASH  
HIS HEAD  
IN!











A comic book panel showing Batman riding a horse over a battlefield. The horse is wearing a red cloth. Batman is looking back over his shoulder. The ground is covered in bodies and debris. A speech bubble above the horse says "BRAVO!".

**BRAVO!**

BRAVO,  
BATSSS! I'LL  
ADMIT, I'M  
IMPRESSED!

A close-up of Batman's face, looking down with a grimace. He is surrounded by a crowd of people in the background.

I'M GOING  
TO MAKE YOU **PAY**  
FOR THIS, JOKER.  
ALL OF IT.

PAY?  
BUT...BUT...ALL  
THIS IS FOR  
YOU!

WE ALL LOVE  
YOU HERE! LOOK UP!  
LOOK AT WHAT WE  
MADE YOU!



A ROYAL  
TAPESTRY!

MY  
GOD...

A TRIBUTE FROM  
YOUR FAITHFUL! WITH A LITTLE  
HELP FROM THE DOLLMAKER, OF  
COURSE. AND MY, DOES HE ENJOY  
HIS WORK. I THOUGHT DEAD  
WOULD BE BETTER, BUT HE PUT  
TUBES IN THE STOMACHS,  
AND VOILA!

THE LIVE  
FLESH MAKES  
THE COLORS  
POP, NO?

IT'S LIKE  
YESTERDAY,  
ISN'T IT? OUR  
ADVENTURES!

THE TIMES  
WE'VE HAD! THE  
LAUGHTER!

THE TEARS...OF LAUGHTER!  
THIS WHOLE PLACE, MY DEAR,  
A LOVE LETTER, TO YOU!  
SLOW DOWN A MOMENT,  
TAKE A LOAD OFF AND  
ABSORB IT ALL!

RRRAAAAAHHHH!

HAILTHEBATKINGHAILTHEBATKING...

Don't listen to  
them--or him, Bruce.  
Don't see any of it.

Just go--get to  
him before he's  
ready! Get to him!



Jeremiah's quarters, they're just ahead. Whatever Joker has planned, he didn't have the time he wanted.

He'll throw a fight your way. You know it. Fight through whatever he—

DIE, BATMAN!

GETTING CLOSE, NOW, BATS! YOU'VE REACHED THE INNER CIRCLE! WHERE YOUR REAL FAMILY RESIDES!

YOUR GROUNDSKEEPER, WHOSE ONLY WISH IS TO DRESS YOUR LANDS IN ICE, IN BLOOMS OF WHITE DEATH...

STAY STILL AND IT MIGHT NOT BURN THROUGH YOUR CHEST, FREEZE.



A two-panel comic strip. In the top-left panel, Batman is seen from the chest up, wearing his black tactical suit and cowl, holding a handgun. He is looking towards the Joker. In the top-right panel, the Joker is shown from the chest up, wearing his signature purple suit and green hair. He is looking back at Batman with a mischievous expression. The background shows a cityscape with buildings.

THAT'S  
FAR ENOUGH,  
BATMAN!

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?!  
I THOUGHT  
WE WERE--  
AAAGH!


A two-panel comic strip. In the bottom-left panel, Batman is seen from the chest up, wearing his black tactical suit and cowl, holding a handgun. He is looking towards the Joker. In the bottom-right panel, the Joker is shown from the chest up, wearing his signature purple suit and green hair. He is looking back at Batman with a mischievous expression. The background shows a cityscape with buildings.

YOUR ROYAL  
PLAYER, A THEATRICAL  
GENIUS, CAPABLE OF ANY  
ROLE THAT MIGHT SPEAK  
TO YOU--YOUR DARKEST  
FEARS!

ALL  
RIGHT, YOUR  
HIGHNESS...

A two-panel comic strip. In the bottom-left panel, Batman is seen from the chest up, wearing his black tactical suit and cowl, holding a handgun. He is looking towards the Joker. In the bottom-right panel, the Joker is shown from the chest up, wearing his signature purple suit and green hair. He is looking back at Batman with a mischievous expression. The background shows a cityscape with buildings.

...LET'S  
RUMBL--

A two-panel comic strip. In the bottom-left panel, Batman is seen from the chest up, wearing his black tactical suit and cowl, holding a handgun. He is looking towards the Joker. In the bottom-right panel, the Joker is shown from the chest up, wearing his signature purple suit and green hair. He is looking back at Batman with a mischievous expression. The background shows a cityscape with buildings.

LET'S NOT FORGET  
YOUR PHYSICIAN, WHO  
KEEPS YOUR SUBJECTS  
STRONG AND HEALTHY  
IN THEIR TERROR!

A TINCTURE  
FOR YOU, MY  
LORD!





SOMETHING SPECIAL I--



MY, MY, YOU'RE ALL FIRED UP, AREN'T YOU? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LIKE THIS IN... WELL, IN A LONG TIME, OLD FRIEND!

MOVE THAT IN FRONT OF THE DOOR! QUICK! HE'S ON THE STAIRS!



I ADMIT, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO TAKE SO LITTLE TIME GREETING THEM, THE EXTENDED MEMBERS OF YOUR COURT!

You have him, Bruce!

Get in there! Now!

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A MOMENT OUTSIDE THE DOOR, I'M AFRAID! WE'RE NOT QUITE READY FOR YOU YET!



HURRY, GET IN POSITION! HE'S COMING!

HE'S--!

**BOOM**



=UNH=



QUICKLY! QUICKLY!



JOKER! IT'S...

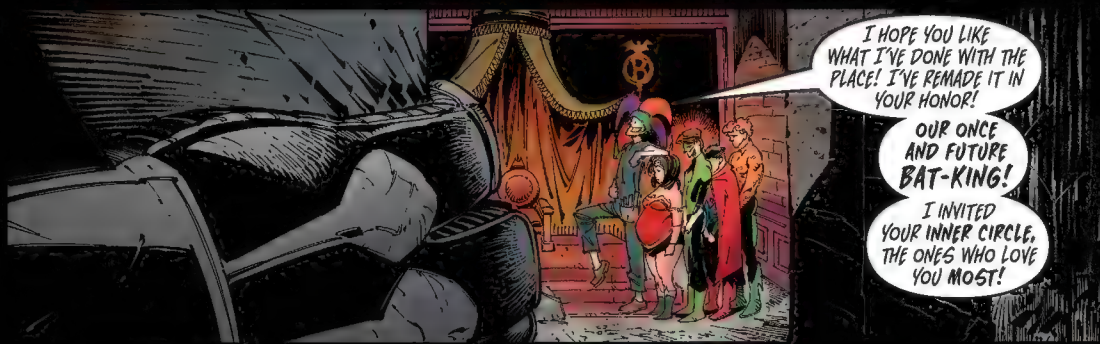
...WHAT IN...?





WELCOME  
TO YOUR THRONE  
ROOM, BATSSSS!  
WHERE  
THE MAGIC  
HAPPENS!





I HOPE YOU LIKE WHAT I'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE! I'VE REMADE IT IN YOUR HONOR!

OUR ONCE AND FUTURE BAT-KING!

I INVITED YOUR INNER CIRCLE, THE ONES WHO LOVE YOU MOST!

YOUR MAN OF THE CLOTH, BISHOP COBBLEPOT, WHO CULTIVATES THE CITY'S TRUE RELIGION... VICE.

HAIL!

SIR EDWARD, YOUR STRATEGIST, THE MAN WHO KEEPS YOUR MIND SHARP!

HAIL, MY LORD!

YOUR JUDGE, THE HONORABLE MR. DENT, WHO SHAPES THE LAWS OF CHAOS THAT GOVERN YOUR KINGDOM!

HAIL, FREAK.



AND I, YOUR FAITHFUL COURT JESTER. WE COULD HAVE SERVED ANYONE, BATS!

WE COULD HAVE SERVED ANY KING OR QUEEN... FOR EXAMPLE, THE KING OF METROPOLIS...



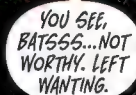
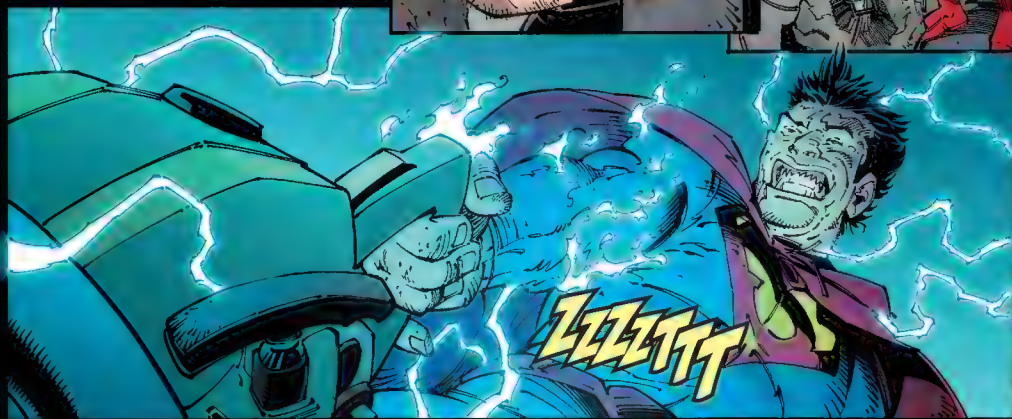
GO ON.

NO, NO PLEASE!



STOP THIS!









Hit it fast and hard, Bruce. Right at the joint.

GO ON, DEAR...



...AND PULLETH OUT THIS CHAINSAW FROM THE ANVIL...



...AND YE SHALL BE DUBBED...

Hit it with everything you have left. Get past it, Past him!



...THE RIGHTWISE QUEEN OF GOTH--!

HE'S IN!

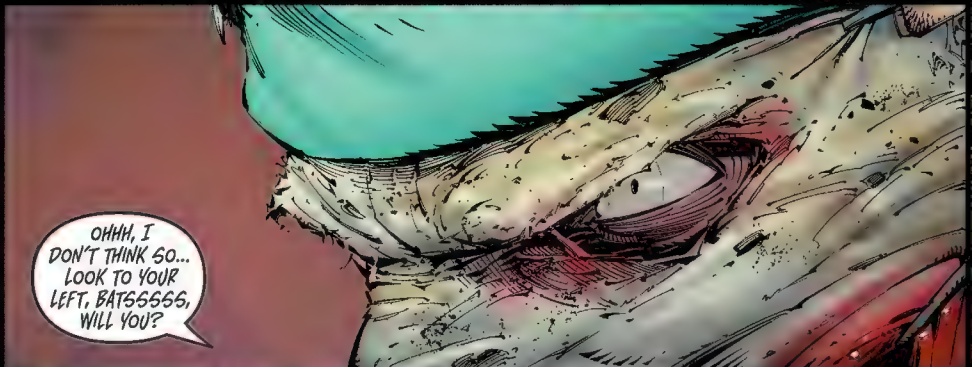
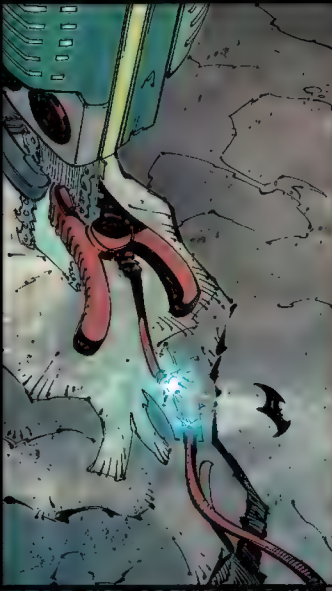
THE BARS! DROP THE BARS!



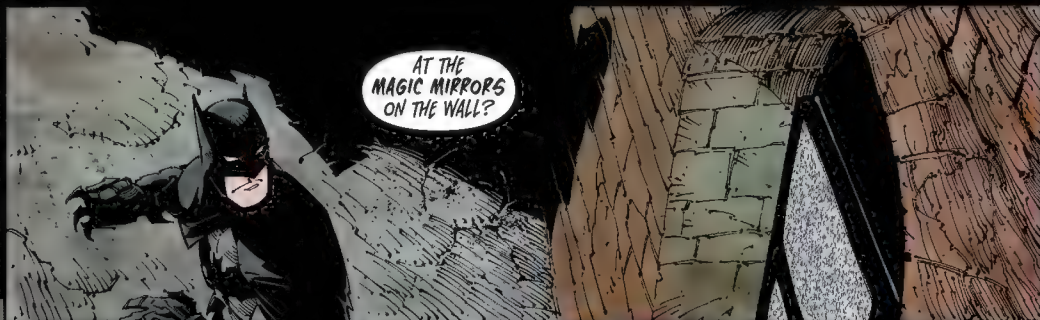
HAHAHAHA! TOO SLOW, BATS! BUT WHAT AN EFFORT!

IF I SQUINT MY EYES, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE WET BEHIND THE EARS, FRESH OUT OF THE CAVE! YOU ALMOST HAD ME--US--BUT--

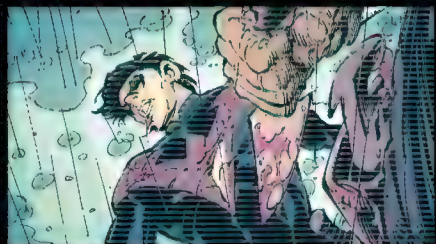




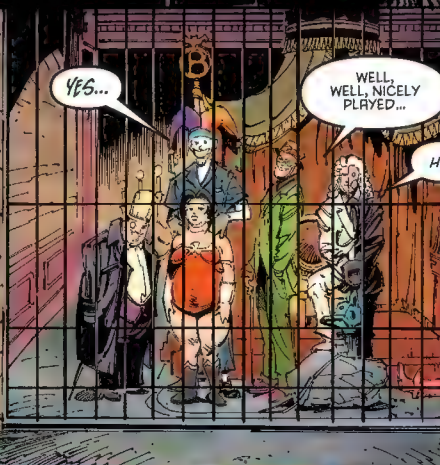
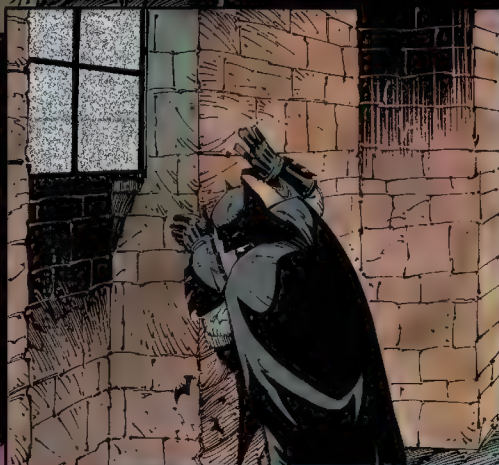
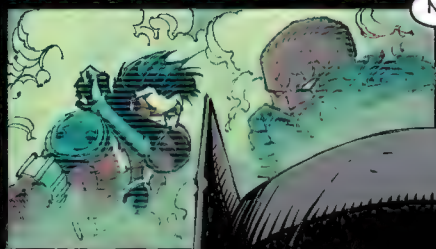




AT THE  
MAGIC MIRRORS  
ON THE WALL?



NO...



YES...

WELL,  
WELL, NICELY  
PLAYED...

HEH.

AND THAT'S  
THE POINT, BATS.  
THE PROCLAMATION  
I MADE TO YOU.

BE AS FAST AND  
SMART AS YOU WANT.  
BUT SO LONG AS THEY  
LIVE, YOU'LL ALWAYS  
ALWAYS LOSE.

NOW, THAT LEAVES  
YOU WITH ONLY ONE THING  
LEFT TO DO...AND THAT IS,  
TO ACCEPT YOUR TRUE ROLE.  
TO EMBRACE IT. AND, IN  
DOING SO, TO TAKE YOUR  
RIGHTFUL PLACE...





...ON YOUR THRONE.



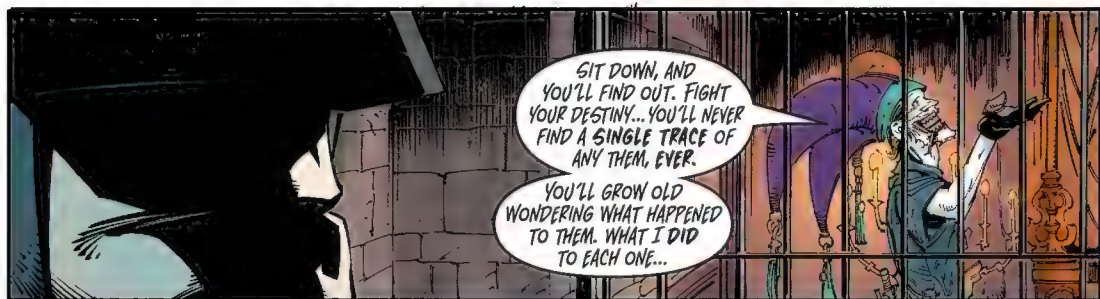
THAT'S RIGHT. SIT DOWN, MY KING.

NOT BAD, CLOWN.

HEH!  
AND NOW  
I'M SO GLAD  
I CAME.



WHERE ARE  
THEY? WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE TO  
THEM?



SIT DOWN, AND  
YOU'LL FIND OUT. FIGHT  
YOUR DESTINY... YOU'LL NEVER  
FIND A SINGLE TRACE OF  
ANY THEM, EVER.

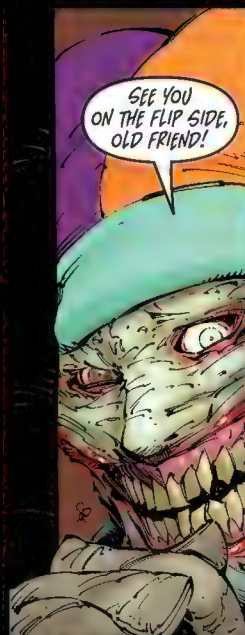
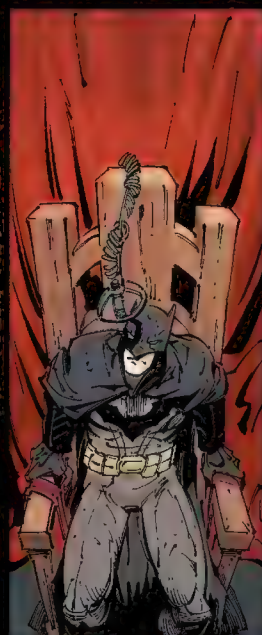
YOU'LL GROW OLD  
WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THEM. WHAT I DID  
TO EACH ONE...



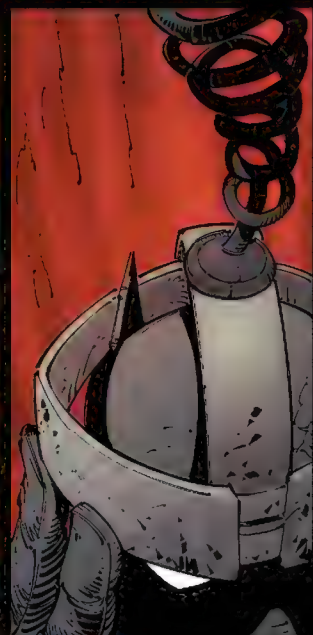
...NOW  
SIT  
YOUR  
#%^  
DOWN!



**HAIL! HAIL! HAIL! HAIL!**



SEE YOU  
ON THE FLIP SIDE,  
OLD FRIEND!



**NEXT: THE GRAND FINALE!**



IS HE  
DEAD?

# JUDGMENT

SCOTT SNYDER & JAMES TYNION, IV

WRITERS

DAVID BARON

COLORS

KATIE KUBERT

ASSISTANT EDITOR

JOCK

ARTWORK

TAYLOR ESPOSITO

LETTERS

MIKE MARTS

EDITOR

I DON'T  
CARE ABOUT THE  
PROBABILITIES...  
I JUST WANT TO  
GET THE HELL OUT  
OF HERE BEFORE  
THE POLICE  
ARRIVE.

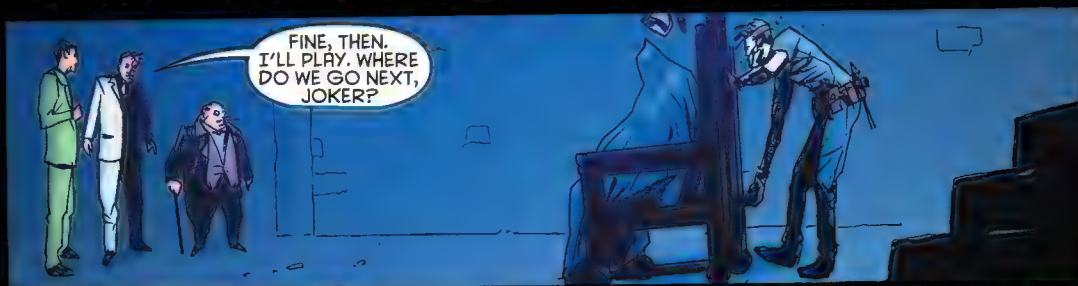
I FIND  
THAT HIGHLY  
IMPROBABLE,  
DENT.

COULDN'T  
AGREE MORE,  
PENGUIN.



TUT TUT,  
HARVEY!







...I GUESS  
YOU'RE GOING  
NOWHERE!  
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

CLANG

JOKER! I DON'T  
BELONG IN THIS  
MADHOUSE!

RIDDLER,  
FIND US A  
WAY OUT NOW  
AND THERE'S  
TWENTY-  
THOUSAND  
DOLLARS IN IT  
FOR YOU.

CASH,  
GOLD, DIGITAL,  
NAME YOUR  
CURRENCY.

WELL...

EDDIE?

...unff...

WHOOPS! GUESS I HID SOME TEENY  
TINY TRANQS IN THAT LOVELY GREEN  
JACKET I BROUGHT HIM. Y'KNOW,  
JUST IN CASE I NEEDED TO BUY  
MYSELF A LITTLE TIME.

BUT ANYWAYS!  
THE KING AND I HAVE TO  
GET MOVING. WE'VE GOT DINNER  
RESERVATIONS WITH THE WHOLE  
FAMILY. CAN'T BE LATE FOR THAT!

DON'T WANT  
TO MAKE A BAD  
IMPRESSION.

NO.  
YOU'RE NOT  
GOING ANY-  
WHERE.



I'M SICK OF YOUR ACT, CLOWN. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL CLAIM TO HIM. WE'VE ALL BEEN AT THIS FOR YEARS.

OPEN THESE DAMN BARS, AND WE'LL FOLLOW. AS LONG AS THE BAT DIES, WE'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEE THIS THROUGH.



HAN! THE RIGHT? OH, THAT'S RICH, HARVEY... THAT REALLY IS. **HEHEHEHE...** I'M CRACKING UP ALL OVER.

DO YOU REALIZE HOW **PATNETIC** YOU SOUND? "OH PLEASE, MR. JOKER. PLEASE LET ME HELP KILL THE BAT-MAN, MR. JOKER... IT'S MY RIGHT."

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I **CHOSE** YOU TO PLAY THE JUDGE IN MY LITTLE TABLEAU? IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE **NOTHING, HARVEY.**

MY NAME IS **TWO-FACE.**

HUSH NOW, **HAAAAARVEY.** YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE. ALL IT TOOK WAS A LITTLE ACID TO THE FACE, AND EVERYTHING YOU STOOD FOR GOT THROWN OUT THE WINDOW!

AND IT TURNS OUT YOU WERE JUST WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO PRETEND TO BE ONE OF THE GANGSTERS YOU USED TO LOCK AWAY!

SHUT UP, JOKER...

AND HECK, IN **THIS CITY?** THAT BRAND OF JUSTICE IS PERFECT! THE KIND OF JUSTICE THAT'S MEANINGLESS.

WHERE ONE SIDE OF THE COIN IS JUST AS GOOD AS THE OTHER. WHERE THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT OR WRONG.

SHUT THE HELL UP!



BUT DON'T  
GET ME WRONG,  
HAAARVEY. NONE OF US  
RESPECT YOU. WE JUST  
TOLERATE YOU. SO YOU  
WANT TO PULL THAT  
TRIGGER? GO ON. I  
DARE YA.

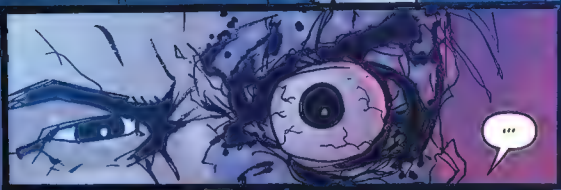
JUST ONE  
LITTLE THING  
TO KEEP IN  
MIND...

I GAVE YOU  
THAT SUIT. I GAVE YOU  
THAT GUN. YOU ALREADY KNOW  
I BOOBY-TRAPPED POOR OLD  
EDDIE. CAN YOU REALLY BE SURE  
THAT I DIDN'T SEE THIS  
COMING, TOO?

MAYBE  
I SWAPPED IT WITH  
A GUN THAT SHOOTS  
BACKWARDS. MAYBE  
IT'LL JUST GIVE YOU A  
BIG, HEART-STOPPING  
SHOCK!

OR MAYBE,  
JUST MAYBE, IT'LL  
SHOOT A BULLET STRAIGHT  
THROUGH MY HEAD. YOU CAN  
SHOOT THEM ALL, TOO.  
PRETEND YOU'VE HAD A  
CHANGE OF HEART. BE ONE  
OF THE GOOD GUYS  
AGAIN.

WHAT  
DO YOU THINK?  
LOTTA OPTIONS THERE.  
HOPE YOUR LITTLE  
COIN HAS ENOUGH  
SIDES.



HAHAHA  
HAHAHA  
HAHAHA!

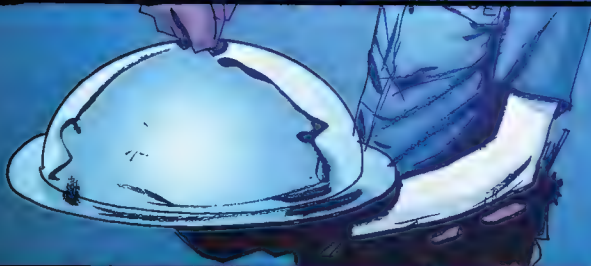


ARE YOU TWO FINISHED?  
GOOD.

I KNOW THIS  
SOUNDS RIDICULOUS,  
BUT YOU HAVE TO LISTEN  
TO **REASON**, JOKER. LET  
ME OUT AND I COULD GIVE  
YOU **MILLIONS**. I COULD  
GIVE IT TO YOU  
TONIGHT.

WHAT  
WOULD I DO WITH  
ALL THAT MONEY? NO...  
NO... I THINK I'LL KEEP  
THINGS ACCORDING  
TO PLAN.

BUT HOWZ  
ABOUT **THIS** FOR YOUR  
TROUBLE--A LITTLE  
TASTE OF WHAT'S TO  
COME...



BE WARNED,  
THOUGH, IT MIGHT  
NOT SIT WELL WITH YOU.  
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT'LL GO  
OVER WELL WITH THE  
**BAT-BABIES**,  
EITHER.

OH  
LORD...

YOU  
HAVE TO BE  
JOKING.



DO I? IT'S IN  
THE NAME, I SUPPOSE...  
BUT THAT'S THE WHOLE THING  
WITH A JOKE. YOU HAVE  
TO PLAY WITH THEIR  
EXPECTATIONS.

BUT  
ANYWAYS...

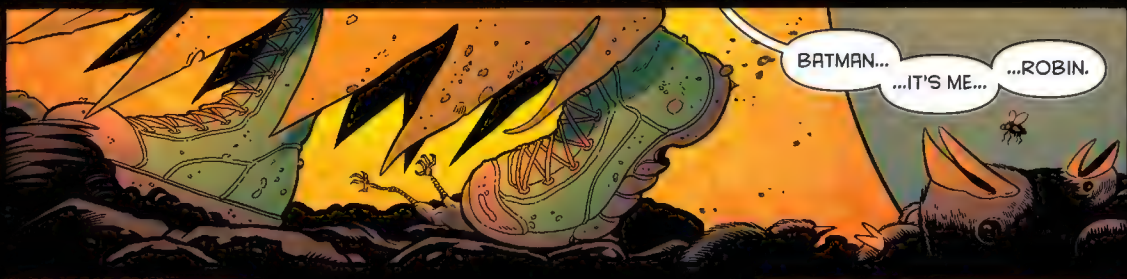


...TIME FOR  
DINNER.



TO BE CONCLUDED...

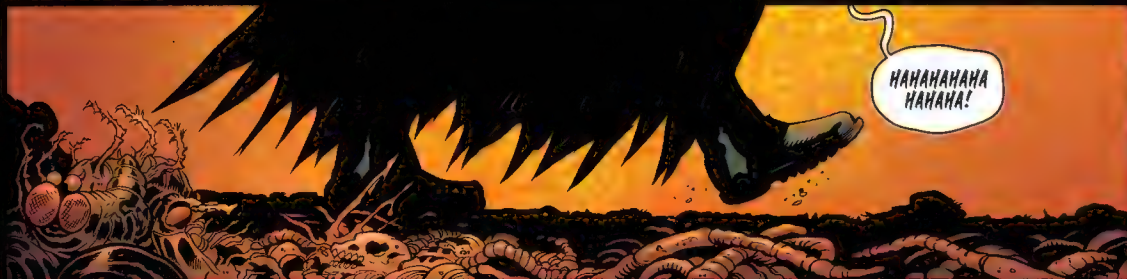




BATMAN...

...IT'S ME...

...ROBIN.



HAHAHAHAHA  
HAHAHA!



I LOVE  
THE SOUND OF  
BUGS CRUNCHING  
UNDERFOOT.

SOUNDS  
LIKE...VICTORY.

OR MY  
BREAKFAST CEREAL  
FIGHTING WITH THE MILK  
IN THE MORNING.


I CAN  
NEVER TELL, CAN  
YOU?



BATMAN--  
THE JOKER'S GOT  
YOU UNDER HIS  
CONTROL!

FIGHT  
BACK--PUSH  
THROUGH  
IT!





MOMENT OF  
TRUTH TIME,  
ROBBY.

LIFE AND  
DEATH.

THE  
ONLY WAY  
YOU ESCAPE  
IS TO KILL  
BATMAN!

HEHHEH  
HEHHEH.

**DEATH OF THE FAMILY**

## **CAST A GIANT SHADOW**

PETER J. TOMASI - Writer

PATRICK GLEASON - Penciller

MICK GRAY and KEITH CHAMPAGNE - Inkers

JOHN KALISZ - Colorist

CARLOS M. MANGUAL - Letterer

GLEASON, GRAY, KALISZ - Cover

RICKEY PURDIN - Assistant Editor

RACHEL GLUCKSTERN - Editor

Batman created by Bob Kane



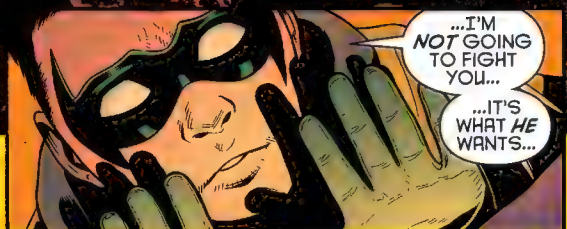


HEHHEH  
HEH

...BATMAN...  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE  
DOING...

...WE'RE  
AT THE  
GOTHAM  
ZOO...

...IT'S  
ONE OF  
HIS SICK  
TRAPS...



...I'M  
NOT GOING  
TO FIGHT  
YOU...

...IT'S  
WHAT HE  
WANTS...



HEHHEH



GIRLS,  
YOU BETTER  
HOLD ON TO YOUR  
BOYFRIENDS--

--THIS NEW  
SERUM CONCOCTION OF  
MINE HAS SOME SURPRISES,  
LIKE ALLOWING FOR  
SUGGESTION--

--SO I WAS  
THINKING WE'D PARE IT  
DOWN TO TWO SIMPLE  
WORDS--

--KILL  
ROBIN!









HAHAHA  
HAHAHA!



BRavo,  
BRavo.



KRRR

KLANG

HOW  
COULD YOU  
LET HIM DO  
THIS TO  
US?



LET  
ME HELP  
YOU!

HAHA!

KRRR



PROVE  
TO HIM YOU CAN  
SEE ME!

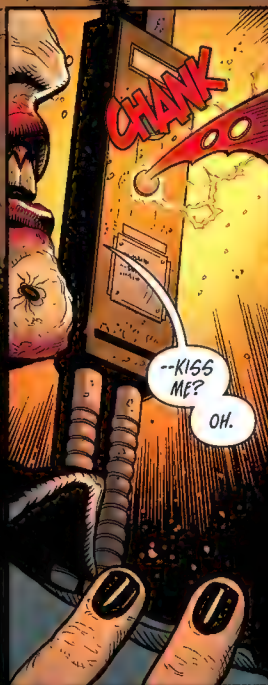
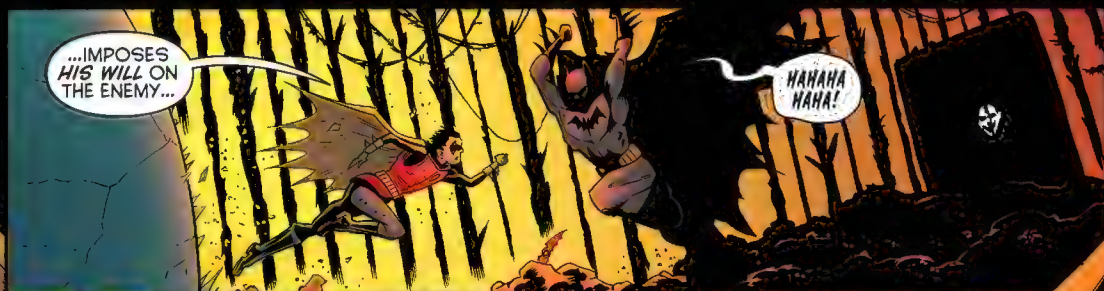
WE'LL  
TAKE HIM DOWN  
TOGETHER!

HAHA  
HA!

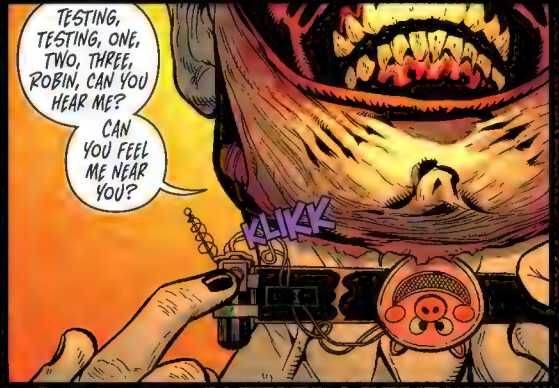




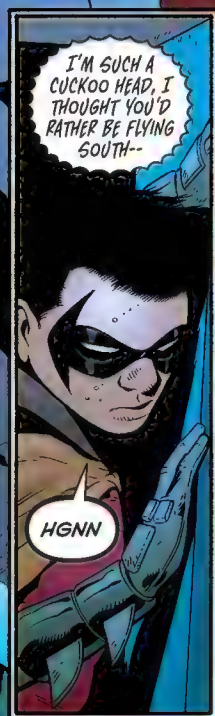












I'M SUCH A  
CUCKOO HEAD, I  
THOUGHT YOU'D  
RATHER BE FLYING  
SOUTH--

HGNN

--INSTEAD  
OF GOING  
NORTH!

THAT'S  
A PRETTY WIDE  
POLAR BEAR MOAT  
FOR A BIRD THAT  
CAN'T FLY.



HAHAHAHA  
HAHA!

ARGHH

FWHAM



SPLAAASH



НА НА НА НА НА!



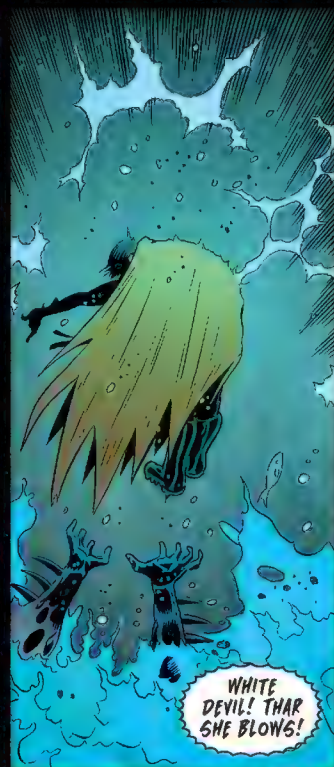
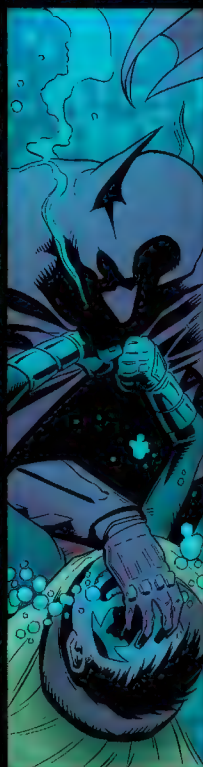




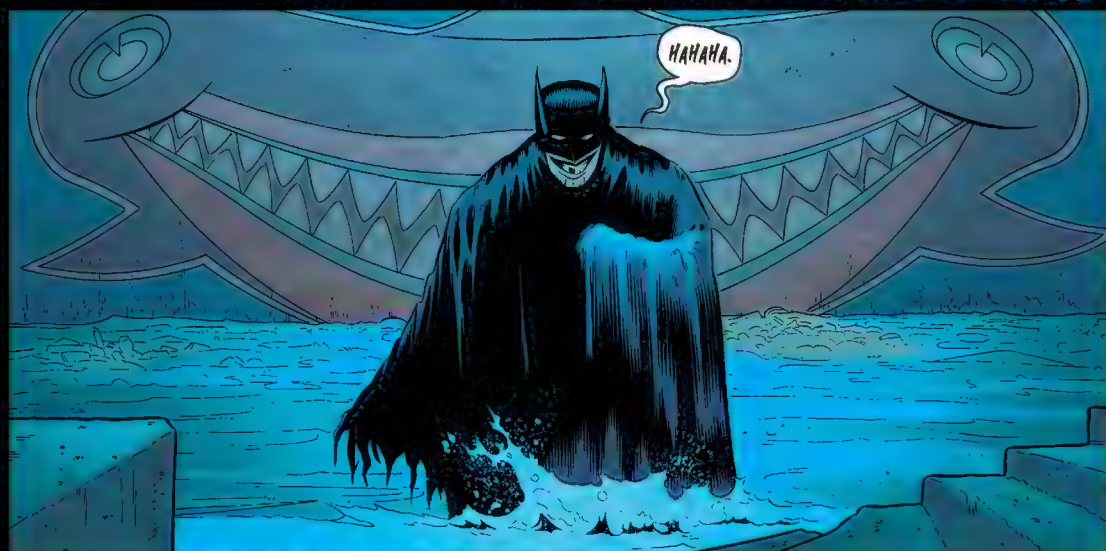
SOOOO  
PRETTY THE WAY THE  
WATER REFLECTS OFF  
THEIR FACES.

I ALWAYS  
WANTED AN  
AQUARIUM.

HOPE AQUAMAN  
DOESN'T HEAR ABOUT  
THIS. HE MIGHT GET MAD AT  
ME AND TALK TO THE SWEDISH  
FISH I ATE AND GET THEM  
SWIMMING ROUND  
AND ROUND.



WHITE  
DEVIL! THAR  
SHE BLOWS!



HAHAHA.



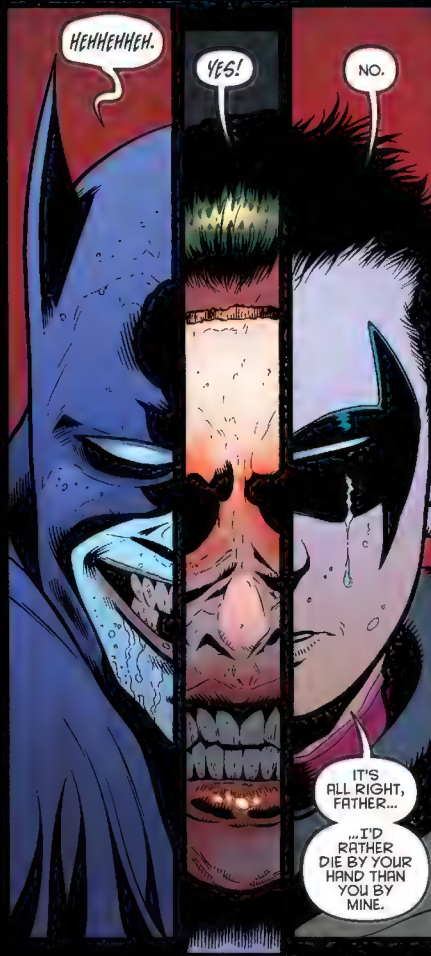
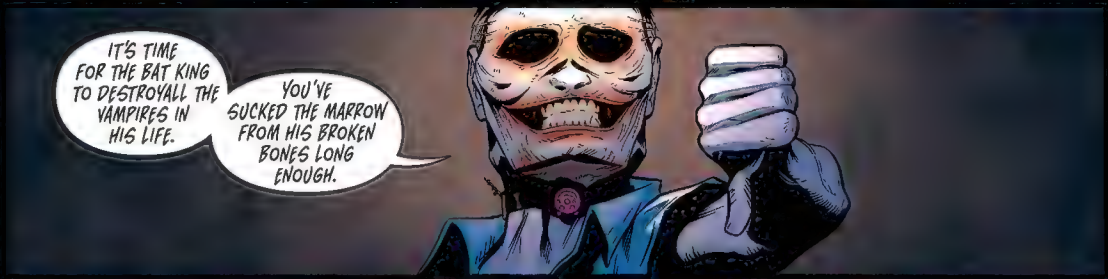
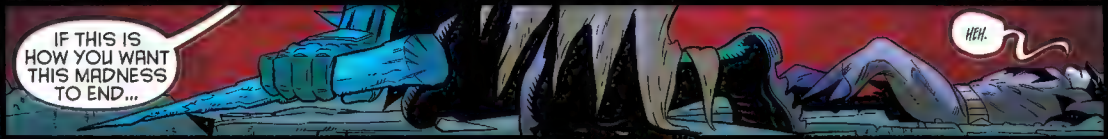




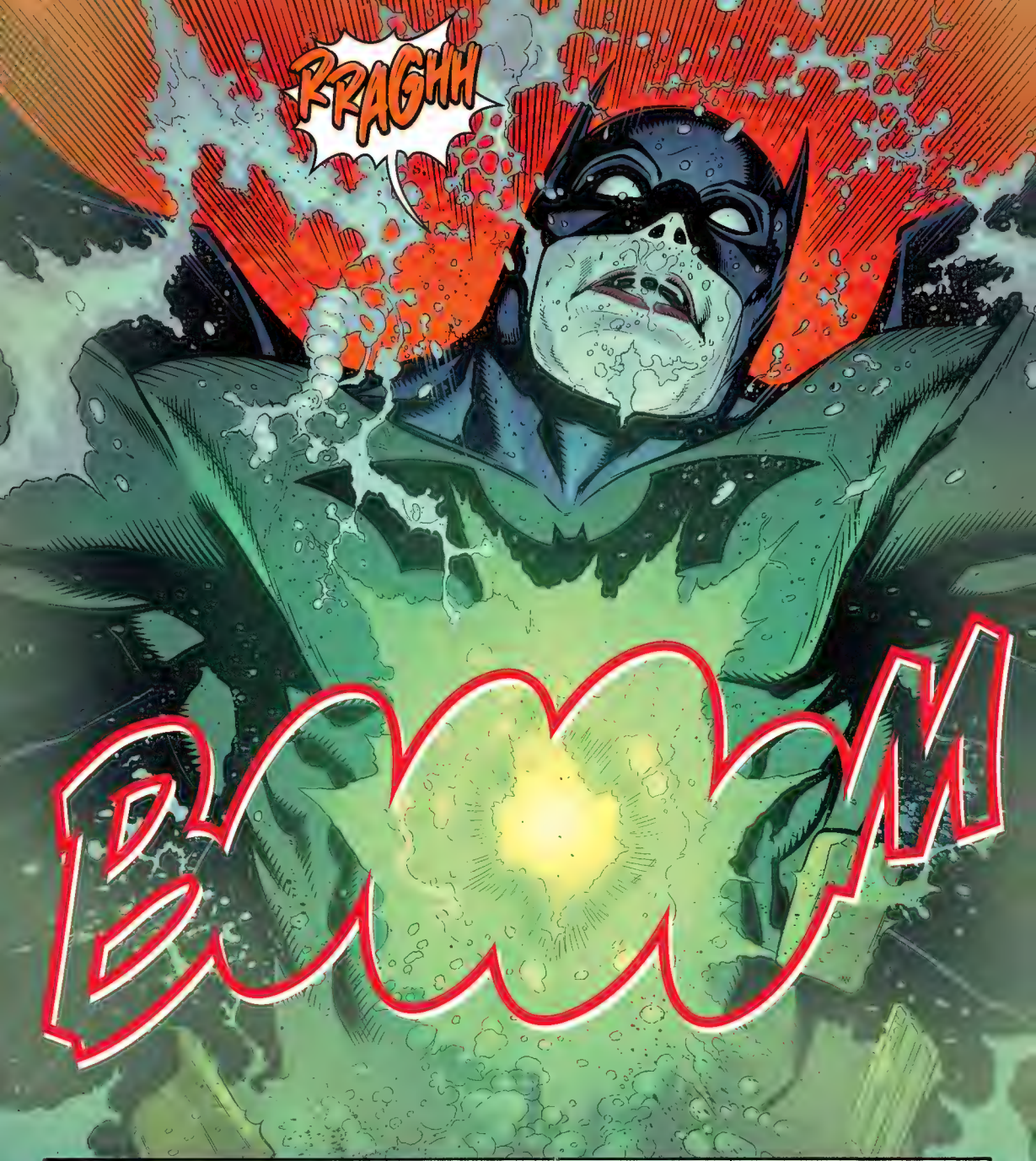


**FINE!**







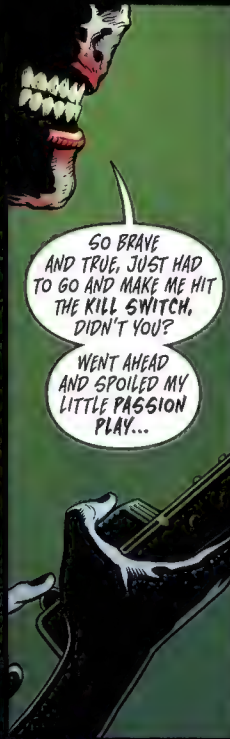






...NO...

...BATMAN...?



SO BRAVE  
AND TRUE, JUST HAD  
TO GO AND MAKE ME HIT  
THE KILL SWITCH,  
DIDN'T YOU?

WENT AHEAD  
AND SPOILED MY  
LITTLE PASSION  
PLAY...



...WITH  
ALL THIS NOBLE  
AND SELFLESS  
NONSENSE.  
THE BAD  
BOY WONDER WAS  
SUPPOSED TO SLAY THE  
BAT, NOT LET HIMSELF  
BE SLAIN.

...KILL...  
KAFF...YOU...  
KAFF...



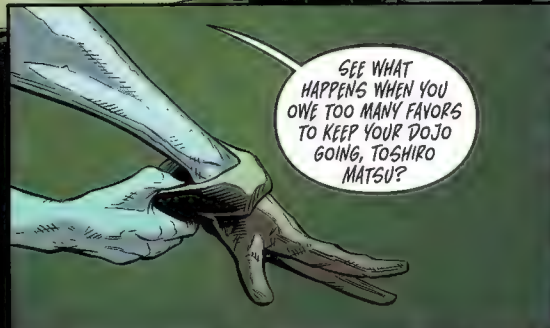
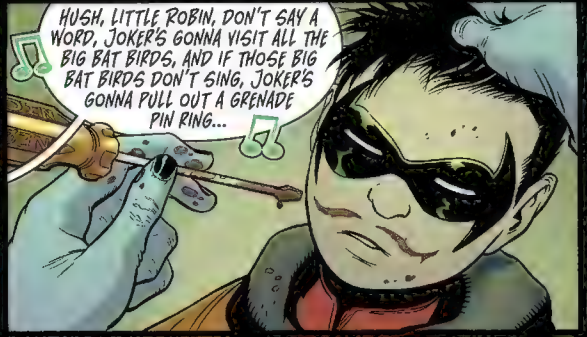
AAAGH-HA  
HAHAHA  
HAHA!

THAT'S  
THE BEST YOU  
COULD DO?



GUESS I  
CAN SKIP MY  
PEDICURE THIS  
WEEK!







A KINGDOM  
AWAITS THE KING, AND  
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO  
ROOM FOR A PRINCE  
IN THE CASTLE.



A GOLDEN  
AGE IS DAWNING  
IN GOTHAM.



WHEN  
ALL WILL BE AS  
IT WAS MEANT  
TO BE.



...WHERE  
ARE YOU...  
TAKING  
ME...?

...WHAT  
THE HELL...ARE  
YOU DOING,  
JOKER?...





THE ONLY  
THING I'M GOING TO BE  
DOING, MY DARLING BOY,  
IS GETTING RID OF ALL THE  
FAMILY SKELETONS IN  
THE CLOSET--

--AND  
MAKE THEM DANCE  
AND PRANCE IN THE  
COLD LIGHT OF  
TRUTH.



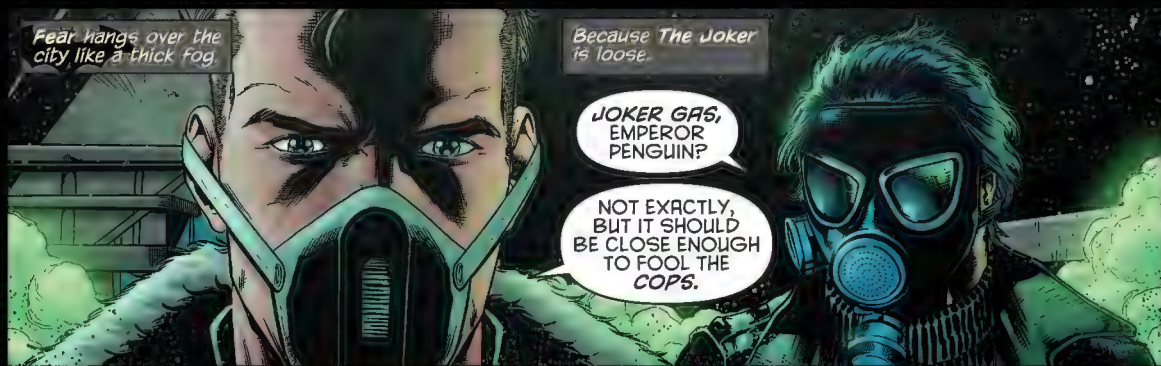
**DEATH OF THE FAMILY**  
CONCLUDES IN **BATMAN #17!!!**



*Gotham's got something  
in the air tonight.*







Fear hangs over the city like a thick fog.

Because The Joker is loose.

JOKER GAS, EMPEROR PENGUIN?

NOT EXACTLY, BUT IT SHOULD BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO FOOL THE COPS.



Some people have taken advantage of the situation, spreading more fear.

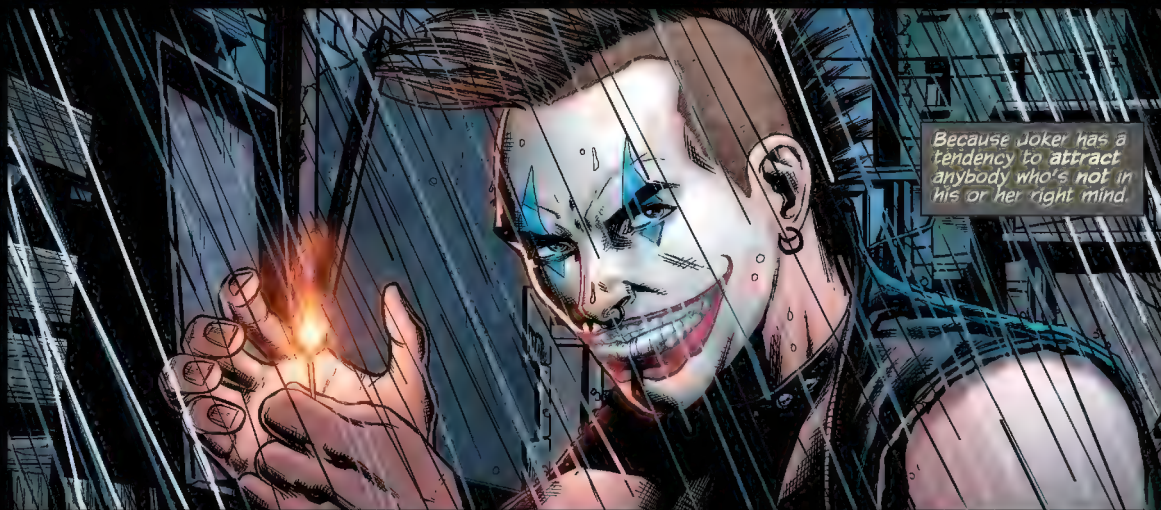
The problem compounds. The fear spreads.

Reminders that Joker is out there are around every corner. Everywhere you look.



Anyone in his or her right mind wants just one thing...

...to get off the streets and to safety.



Because Joker has a tendency to attract anybody who's not in his or her right mind.



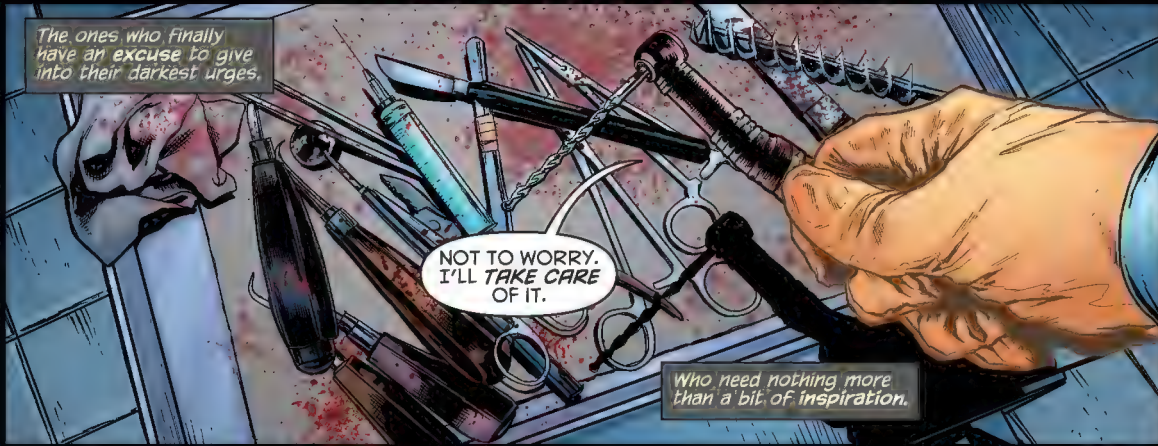


Not just the obsessives,  
the nihilistic fanatics  
looking for a hero.

But the depressingly  
ordinary as well.



TOOTH'S  
BEEN ACHIN' LIKE  
THE BLAZES FOR  
A WHOLE WEEK,  
DOC.



The ones who finally  
have an excuse to give  
into their darkest urges.

NOT TO WORRY.  
I'LL TAKE CARE  
OF IT.

Who need nothing more  
than a bit of inspiration.



To give them that  
one final push.

YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO FEEL  
A THING.



That's another reason  
Gotham needs me.

Somebody has to be  
there to push back.

BATMAN!

Batman  
**DETECTIVE**  
COMICS  
**DEATH OF THE FAMILY**  
NOTHIN' BUT SMILES

written by JOHN LAYMAN  
art by JASON FABOK  
colors by JEREMY COX  
letters by JARED K. FLETCHER  
cover by FABOK & COX  
assistant editor KATIE KUBERT  
associate editor HARVEY RICHARDS  
editor MIKE MARTS  
BATMAN created by BOB KANE



These Idiots call themselves Die Laughing.

C'MON, THIS IS OUR BIG CHANCE.

FIVE OF US. ONE OF HIM.

One of a dozen or more Joker-themed gangs around the city.

LET'S TAKE HIM. FOR THE JOKER!

FOR THE JOKER!

Thinking that with him out there again they've got free rein to run wild in the city.

THUK

THUK

Most of them I already put a stop to.

CRACK

Joy Buzzers. Best Medicine. The Cut-Ups.

Some of them just needed a good scare.

Others need a bit more... persuasion.

YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I'LL EVEN BREAK A SWEAT OVER FIVE CLOWNS LIKE YOU?

YOU'RE MORE DERANGED THAN I THOUGHT.

KLUDD



YOU MIGHT  
STOP *US*,  
BATMAN.

BUT YOU  
CAN'T STOP  
*ALL* OF *US*.

WE'LL  
SEE ABOUT  
THAT.

**THUK**

WHAT DO YOU  
KNOW ABOUT THE  
LEAGUE OF  
SMILES?

W-WHOP?

**THOK**

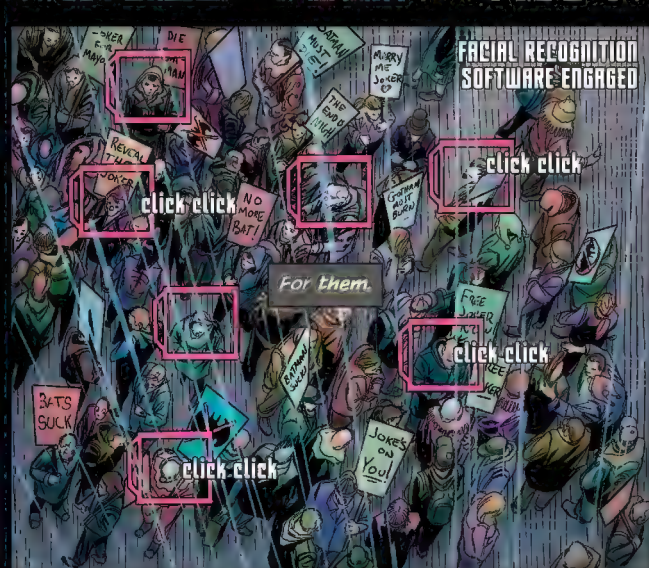
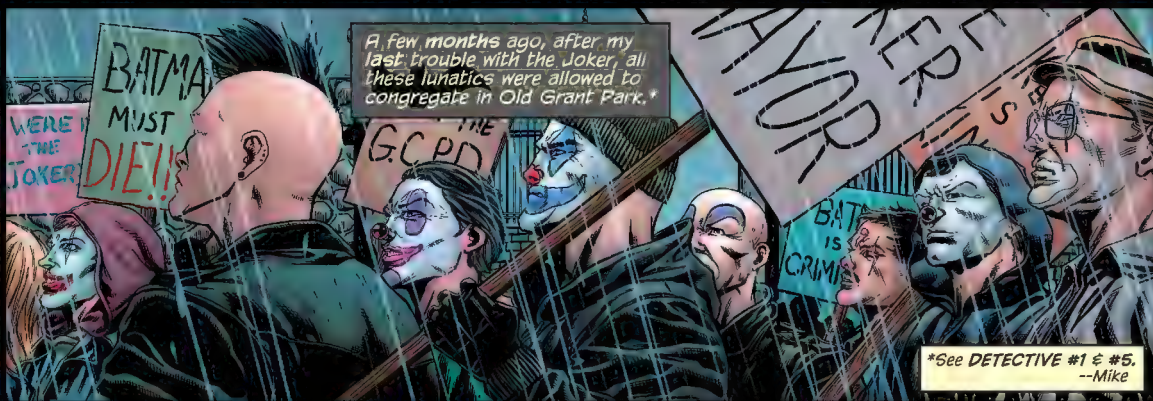
Damn.

That's what  
I thought.

SEND ANOTHER  
VAN, JIM. GOT A  
NEW PICKUP  
FOR YOU.

I said I'd  
be ready.









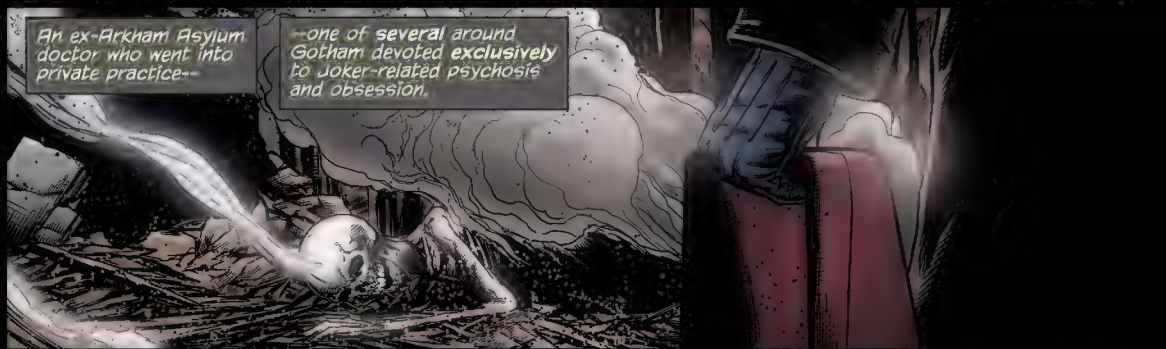




And I may still never have connected them all, except for one other body the G.C.P.D. recovered--

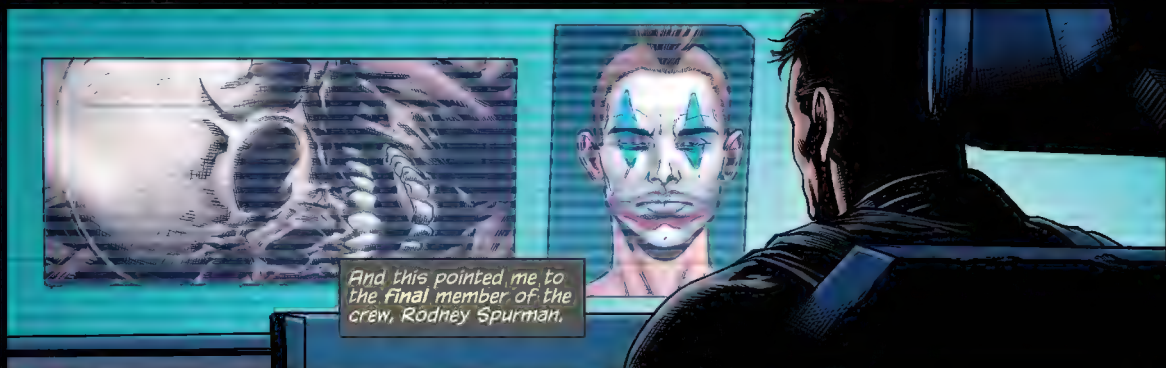
--from a torched office building--

--belonging to the psychiatrist they all shared.



An ex-Arkham Asylum doctor who went into private practice--

--one of several around Gotham devoted exclusively to Joker-related psychosis and obsession.



And this pointed me to the final member of the crew, Rodney Spurlman.



A.K.A. Rodney the Torch.

Seemed like he was a decent kid, once. Good grades. Good prospects.

But then he burned up his entire family and the rest of his apartment building in his first year of high school.

He's been heading down a very dark road ever since.

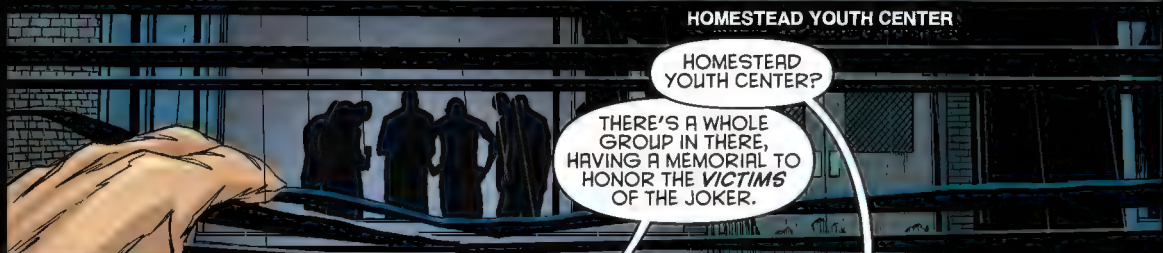
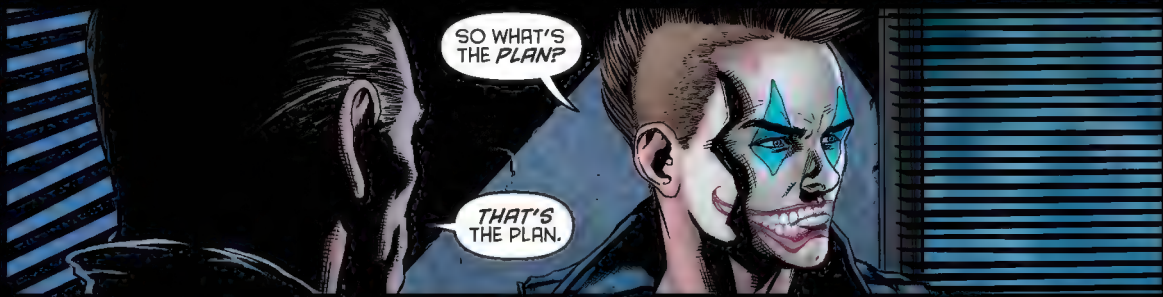


SO YOU'RE RODNEY, HUH? THE NEW GUY.

THEY CALL ME TORCH.

DO YOU LIKE TO BURN THINGS, TORCH? I LIKE TO CHOP THINGS.







ELSEWHERE...

*These jokers? Part of a club called Funny Bonez.*

HUH?

WHAT THE--?

THIS IS BATMAN.

CEASE YOUR  
ACTIVITIES AT ONCE.  
**DISPERSE.**

AND RETURN  
TO YOUR  
HOMES.

B-BATMAN?

*Just dumb kids  
playing 'dress-up.'*

*But I need them  
off the streets.*

*Never a serious threat.*

*Serious threats don't  
tweet about their  
upcoming crime sprees.*





I'M **SERIOUS** HERE. NOBODY MOVE.

NOBODY TRY ANYTHING STUPID.

NO **FUNNY** BUSINESS.



WELL, MAYBE JUST A **LITTLE** FUNNY BUSINESS.

**HAHAHAHAHA!**

**GLACKA CLACKA CLACKA CLACKA**



YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE **JOKER** CULTISTS!

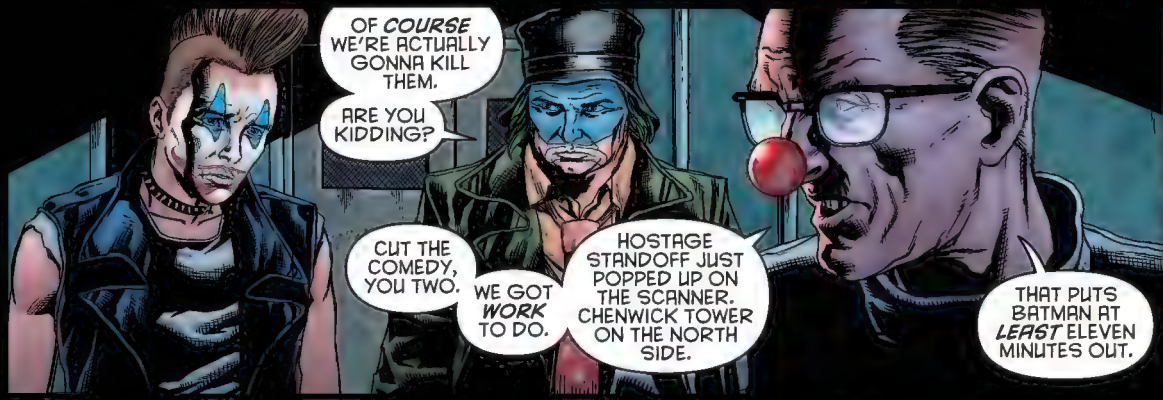
YOU'RE GONNA KILL US NO MATTER **WHAT** WE DO.



YEAH. OKAY, GUILTY AS CHARGED.

I'M **GONNA** START WITH YOU FIRST, BIG MOUTH. BUT, I **PROMISE** YOU WON'T FEEL A THING.

WAIT, ARE WE **ACTUALLY** GOING TO KILL THEM?



OF **COURSE** WE'RE ACTUALLY GONNA KILL THEM.

ARE YOU KIDDING?

CUT THE COMEDY, YOU TWO.

WE GOT **WORK** TO DO.

HOSTAGE STANDOFF JUST POPPED UP ON THE SCANNER. CHENWICK TOWER ON THE NORTH SIDE.

THAT PUTS BATMAN AT **LEAST** ELEVEN MINUTES OUT.



PLENTY OF TIME FOR **US** TO DO OUR THING.



**CHENWICK TOWER.**

It's all because  
of the Joker.

Something about his  
latest reign of terror  
is worse than before.

YOU'RE  
RUNNING OUT  
OF TIME,  
PIGGIES.

The repercussions around  
Gotham are worse, as well.

WHAT'S THE  
SITUATION,  
BULLOCK?

PAIR OF PSYCHOS  
CALLING THEMSELVES  
**PUNCHLINE.**

DEMANDING WE  
GET THE PRESIDENT TO  
AGREE TO PUT JOKER'S  
FACE ON THE MILLION-  
DOLLAR BILL--

--OR THEY'RE  
GOING TO START  
CUTTING DOWN  
THEIR CAPTIVES.

And it can't be cured.

I'LL TAKE  
CARE OF IT.

BETTER BE  
**QUICK** ABOUT IT,  
BATMAN.

Only contained.

BATMAN?









WHAT'S IT  
GONNA BE,  
PIGGIES?

TICK TOCK.

The Batcomputer just  
intercepted a 911 call about  
more hostages--this time  
at Homestead Youth Center.

The League of Smiles  
has finally surfaced.

I had to make quick  
work of Punchline.

HOLY--!



Question is, would it  
be quick enough?





Took six minutes to get across town to the Youth Center.

Had the *actual* Joker been there, he would have killed everybody--several times over--in just under *half* the time.



As far as *body counts* are concerned, Joker is terrifyingly predictable.



While his followers are anything but,

YOU!



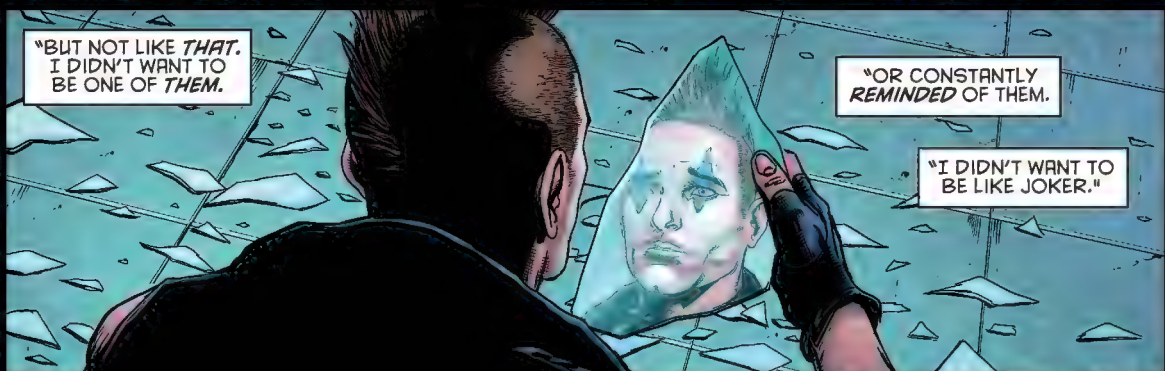
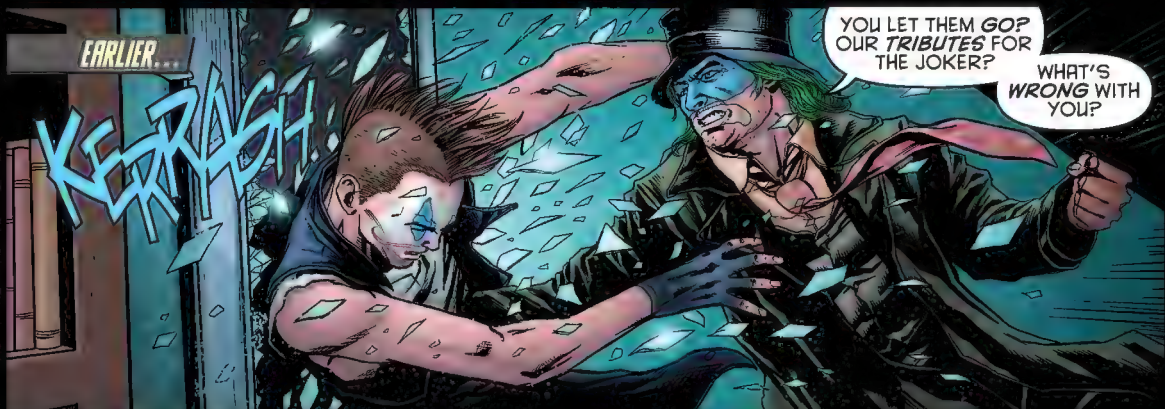
YOUR ACCOMPLICES-- WHERE *ARE* THEY?

THE *HOSTAGES*-- WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* WITH THEM?



I-I LET THEM GO.









THAT'S WHY  
I CUT OFF  
MY FACE.

Idiot kid.



In love with the  
idea of the Joker

COME ON, KID.  
I'M GOING TO GET  
YOU TO SAFETY--

Life ruined by the  
reality of the Joker



--AND THEN  
I'M GOING TO  
MAKE SURE YOU  
GET HELP.

More terror  
spread.

And once again, Joker  
gets the last laugh--

BATMAN,  
WAIT!



YOU HAVE  
TO STOP THEM,  
BATMAN.

THESE GUYS--  
I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE  
IN VARIOUS JOKER GANGS,  
BUT THESE GUYS--THE LEAGUE  
OF SMILES--THEY'RE  
THE WORST.

THEY'RE GOING  
TO KILL AGAIN,  
AND KILL A LOT.

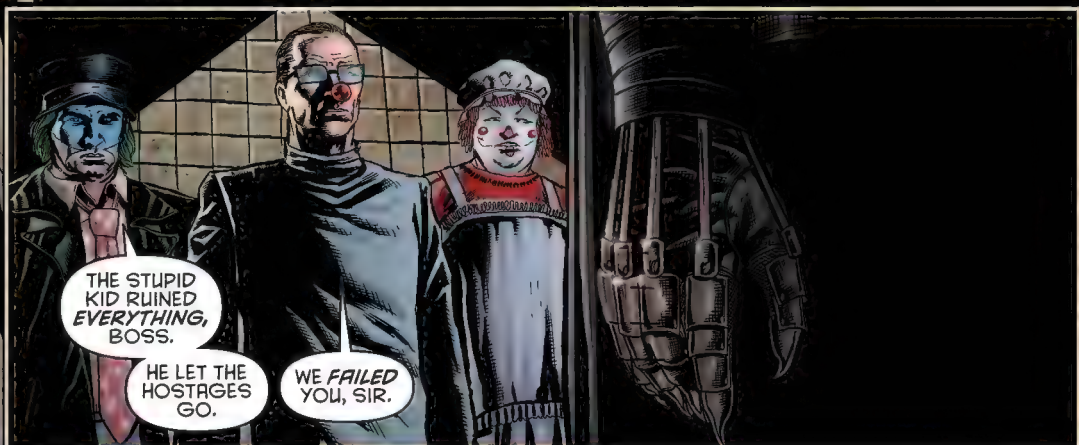
THE  
MERRYMAKER  
IS GOING TO MAKE  
SURE OF IT.



THE  
WHOP



NOT FAR AWAY...



THE STUPID  
KID RUINED  
EVERYTHING,  
BOSS.

HE LET THE  
HOSTAGES  
GO.

WE *FAILED*  
YOU, SIR.

NOT TO  
WORRY.

THE NIGHT  
IS YOUNG.

*MERRYMAKER*  
AND THE LEAGUE  
OF SMILES ARE  
JUST GETTING  
STARTED.

next: **MORE GIGGLES AND GRINS!**



THE SOLUTION:

NOW.

THIS IS  
WHAT WE'RE  
GONNA  
DO.

FRACZZZZZ

BLAME  
JOKER.

## "Pecking Order"

WRITTEN BY JOHN LAYMAN

ART BY ANDY CLARKE

COLORS BY BLOND

LETTERS BY TAYLOR ESPOSITO

ASSISTANT EDITOR KATIE KUBERT

ASSOCIATE EDITOR HARVEY RICHARDS

EDITOR MIKE MARTS



THE PROBLEM:

EARLIER THIS WEEK.

EXCUSE ME, DETECTIVE, WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE?

GCPD POLICE GCPD POLICE GCPD POLICE GCPD POLICE GCPD

YOU THE PRESS?

JUST A CONCERNED CITIZEN.

A NOSY CITIZEN, MORE LIKE. DON'T MATTER. WE'RE NOT RELEASING ANY INFORMATION TO ANYBODY... NOT UNTIL WE GET THIS SORTED OUT--

DETECTIVE BULLOCK?

WHAT IS IT, ROOKIE?

I CAN'T GO BACK IN THERE, DETECTIVE. IT'S A MASSACRE.

LIEUTENANTS FROM EVERY MAJOR CRIME FAMILY IN GOTHAM, AND THEY'RE ALL SLAUGHTERED. SHOT, STABBED, BOUND WITH BARBED WIRE.\*

\*SEE BATMAN #14--MIKE.

KEEP IT DOWN, SON. WE DON'T WANT WORD OF THIS GETTING OUT.

I KNOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THE PENGUIN DID IT, BUT FORENSICS IN THERE'S SAYING IT'S THE JOKER.

THE JOKER.

HERE'S MY BADGE, SIR. I'M DONE. I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU, DETECTIVE.





THE PROBLEM INTENSIFIES:

BLAM  
BLAM  
BANG

RETALIATION  
FOR THE  
MURDERS AT  
THE CHURCH  
LEAVES TWELVE  
DEAD AT THE  
DOCKS.



TWO MORE  
DOWNTOWN.

PLUS HALF A DOZEN  
BYSTANDERS  
INJURED IN THE  
CROSSFIRE.



GOTHAM'S  
ORGANIZED CRIME  
FAMILIES STAND  
ON THE BRINK OF  
FULL-SCALE WAR.



AND THE  
QUESTIONS  
ARE POSED:

HOW ARE  
WE GOING  
TO STOP  
THIS?

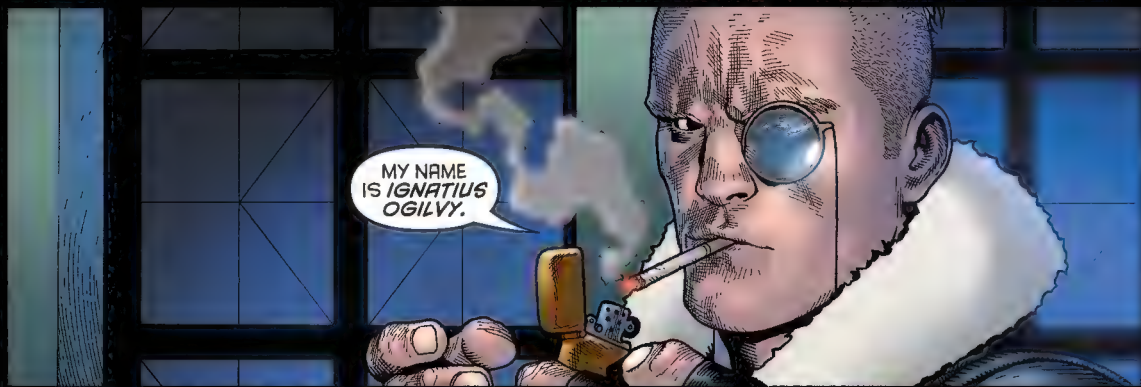
WHAT ARE  
WE GOING  
TO DO?

WHEN ARE WE  
GOING TO GET  
PAYBACK?









MY NAME  
IS **IGNATIUS  
OGILVY.**



MANY OF  
YOU **ALREADY**  
KNOW ME.

--I HAD  
FAITHFULLY SERVED  
IN MR. COBBLEPOT'S  
ORGANIZATION FOR  
MORE THAN FIVE  
YEARS.

I'VE BEEN AN  
ERRAND-BOY, A LOOKOUT  
MAN, A GETAWAY DRIVER, A  
DOORMAN, A CHAUFFEUR, AN  
ENFORCER, A COLLECTOR, A  
BOOKIE, A BOUNCER, A  
BOOKKEEPER, AND, MOST  
RECENTLY, AN EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT.

I'VE WORKED  
IN ALMOST EVERY  
CAPACITY IN MR.  
COBBLEPOT'S OR-  
GANIZATION, AND I  
KNOW **EVERY** ASPECT  
OF HIS OPERATION  
**INTIMATELY.**

CUT TO  
THE CHASE,  
BLABBER-  
MOUTH.

AND,  
SINCE EVERYONE  
GATHERED AT THIS  
TABLE IS IN SOME WAY  
OR ANOTHER IN LEAGUE,  
IN ALLIANCE, OR IN  
BUSINESS WITH MR.  
OSWALD COBBLEPOT,  
MANY OF YOU HAVE  
ALREADY **WORKED**  
WITH ME.

BUT FOR  
THOSE OF YOU  
WHO HAVE  
**NOT--**

BOTTOM LINE:  
PENGUIN AIN'T  
AROUND RIGHT  
NOW.

SO  
YOU'RE HERE  
TODAY, CLAIMIN'  
TO **SPEAK** FOR  
HIM.

AIN'T THAT  
**RIGHT?**



FOR THE RECORD,  
MR. FOSCHINI, I  
DON'T CLAIM TO  
SPEAK **FOR** THE  
PENGUIN.


I'M  
SPEAKING  
**AS** THE  
PENGUIN.

A **NEW**  
PENGUIN IN  
GOTHAM:



A large panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.

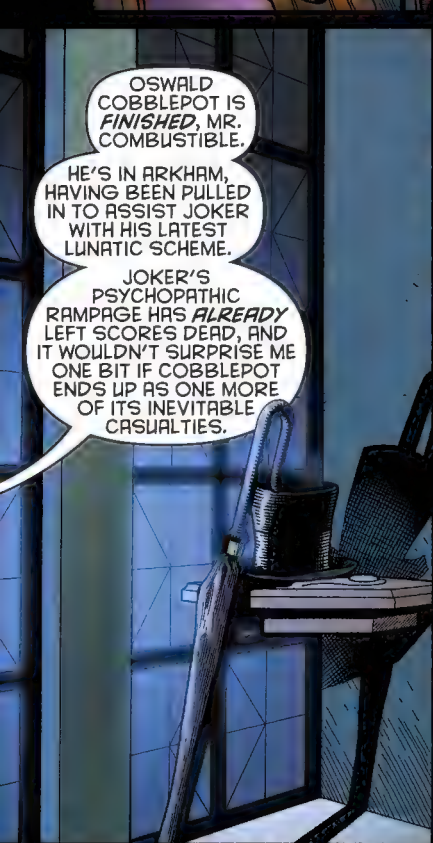
**EMPEROR PENGUIN.**

A panel showing Oswald Cobblepot from the chest up, wearing a purple suit and a gold helmet. He has a scarred face and is looking towards the right.


EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, I'M ASSUMING COMMAND OF **ALL** ASPECTS OF COBBLEPOT'S OPERATION, AND ALL OF YOU ARE WORKING FOR ME. **ALL** OF YOUR OPERATIONS FALL UNDER MY PURVIEW.

A panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.


**WHAT?**  
COBBLEPOT WILL KILL YOU FOR THIS.

A panel showing Oswald Cobblepot from the chest up, wearing a purple suit and a gold helmet. He has a scarred face and is looking towards the right.

OSWALD COBBLEPOT IS **FINISHED**, MR. COMBUSTIBLE.

A panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.


HE'S IN ARKHAM, HAVING BEEN PULLED IN TO ASSIST JOKER WITH HIS LATEST LUNATIC SCHEME.

A panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.


JOKER'S PSYCHOPATHIC RAMPAGE HAS **ALREADY** LEFT SCORES DEAD, AND IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME ONE BIT IF COBBLEPOT ENDS UP AS ONE MORE OF ITS INEVITABLE CASUALTIES.

A panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE **ADVANTAGE** OF THIS.

A panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.

WE'RE GOING TO KILL OUR ENEMIES **QUIETLY** AND PIN IT ON THE JOKER. DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE **HE** DID IT, OR HIS NUTCASE FOLLOWERS.

A panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.

THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCES ARE STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT. BATMAN'S ATTENTION IS ON JOKER. IT'S THE PERFECT TIME.

A panel showing Emperor Penguin from the chest up, wearing a black tuxedo with a white fur collar and a black bow tie. He has a single blue eye and a cigarette in his mouth. His arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or command. The background consists of a grid of windows.

I DON'T THINK SO.





S'BAD ENOUGH SOME  
SNOT-NOSED, NO-ACCOUNT,  
PUNK *NOBODY* LIKE YOU  
SHOWS UP OUT OF THE BLUE,  
THINKIN' HE CAN BOSS US  
AROUND AND TELL US  
HOW TO DO  
THINGS.

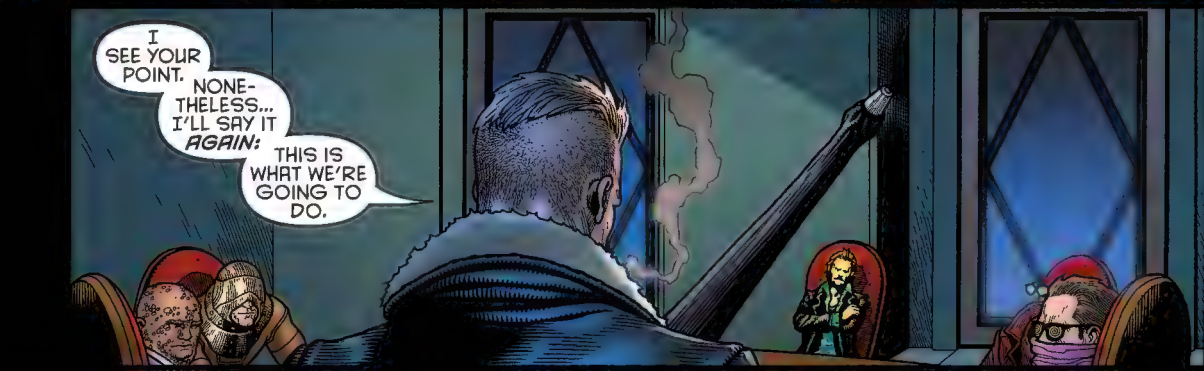
BUT THAT'S  
*NOT* HOW IT  
WORKS.



WE KILL  
SOMEBODY, WE  
TAKE RESPONS-  
SIBILITY.

SOMEONE  
HITS US, WE HIT  
BACK. AN' WE DON'T  
*HIDE* FROM IT. WE  
*DON'T* PRETEND  
SOMEBODY *ELSE*  
DID IT.

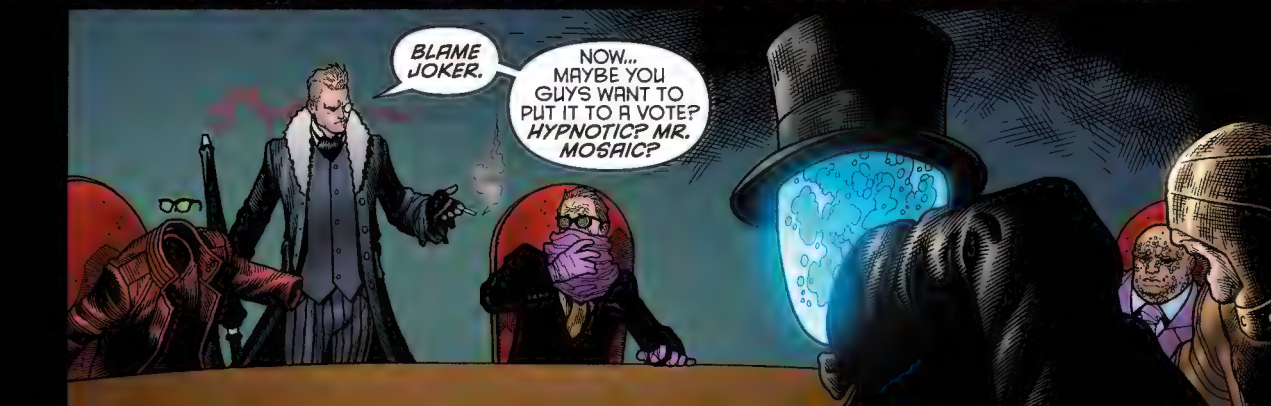
IT'S ALL ABOUT  
GETTING YOUR *NAME*  
OUT THERE. KEEPING THEM  
*AFRAID*. AN' *COMMANDING*  
RESPECT. WE WANNA STOP  
THIS WAR THAT'S BREWING,  
OUR NAME'S GOTTA  
RING OUT.



I  
SEE YOUR  
POINT.

NONE-  
THELESS...  
I'LL SAY IT  
*AGAIN*:

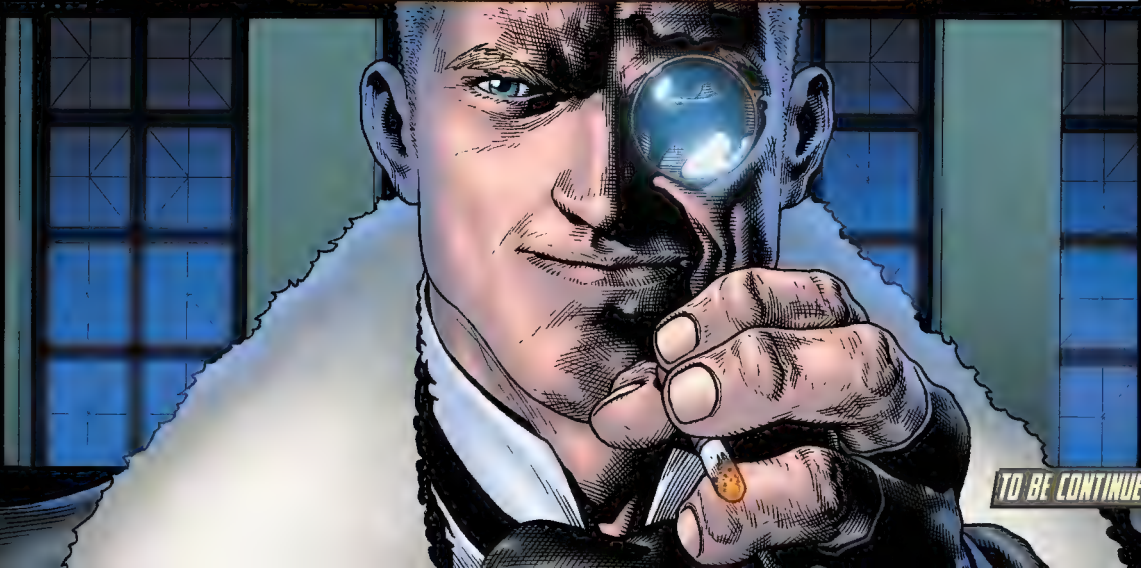
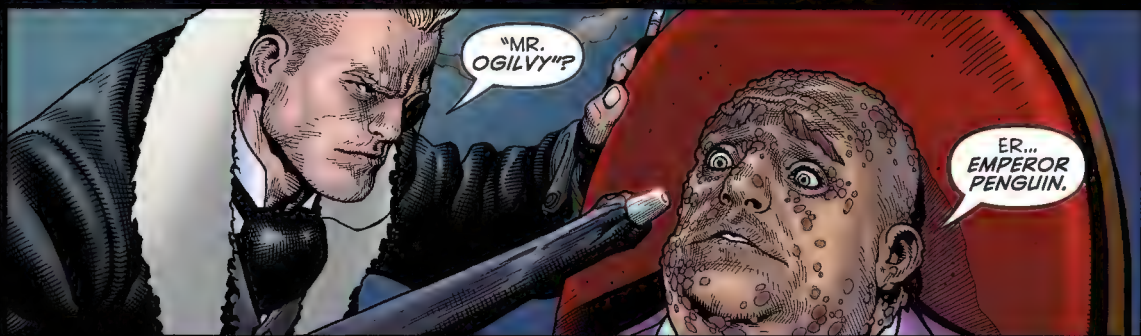
THIS IS  
WHAT WE'RE  
GOING TO  
DO.



*BLAME*  
JOKER.

NOW...  
MAYBE YOU  
GUYS WANT TO  
PUT IT TO A VOTE?  
*HYPNOTIC?* MR.  
MOZAIC?









# RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS

## DEATH OF THE FAMILY

LOBDELL  
GREEN II  
FAUCHER

15

RATED T TEEN

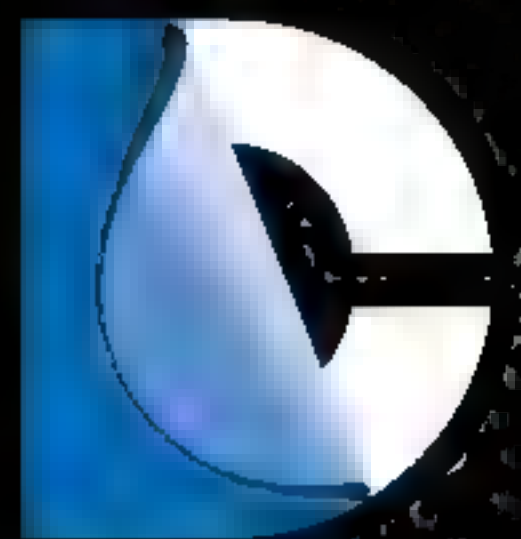
FEB 2013

DC  
COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

dc.comics.com





DC  
COMICS™

15

GLASS  
DAGNINO

# SUICIDE SQUAD

THE NEW 52!

PSYCHOS IN LOVE!

FEB 2013

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS

DCCOMICS.COM





# THE NEW 52

## DEATH OF THE FAMILY

LOBDELL  
BOOTH  
RAPMUND

15



DC  
COMICS™

**THE NEW 52!**

DCCOMICS.COM

RATED **T** TEEN

FEB 2013





# THE NEW 52

## DEATH OF THE FAMILLY

LOBDELL  
BOOTH  
RAPMUND

15



DC  
COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

DCCOMICS.COM

RATED **T** TEEN

FEB 2013





DC  
COMICS™

16

SCOTT  
SNYDER  
GREG  
CAPULLO  
JONATHAN  
GLAPION

DEATH OF THE FAMILY

# BATMAN

THE NEW 52!

SCOTT  
SNYDER  
GREG  
CAPULLO  
JONATHAN  
GLAPION

MAR 2013

RATED T TEEN

Capullo  
12  
+fco

DCCOMICS.COM





DC  
COMICS™

DEATH OF THE FAMILY

16

# BATMAN

THE NEW 52!

SCOTT  
SNYDER  
GREG  
CAPULLO  
JONATHAN  
GLAPION

MAR 2015

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM





DC  
COMICS™

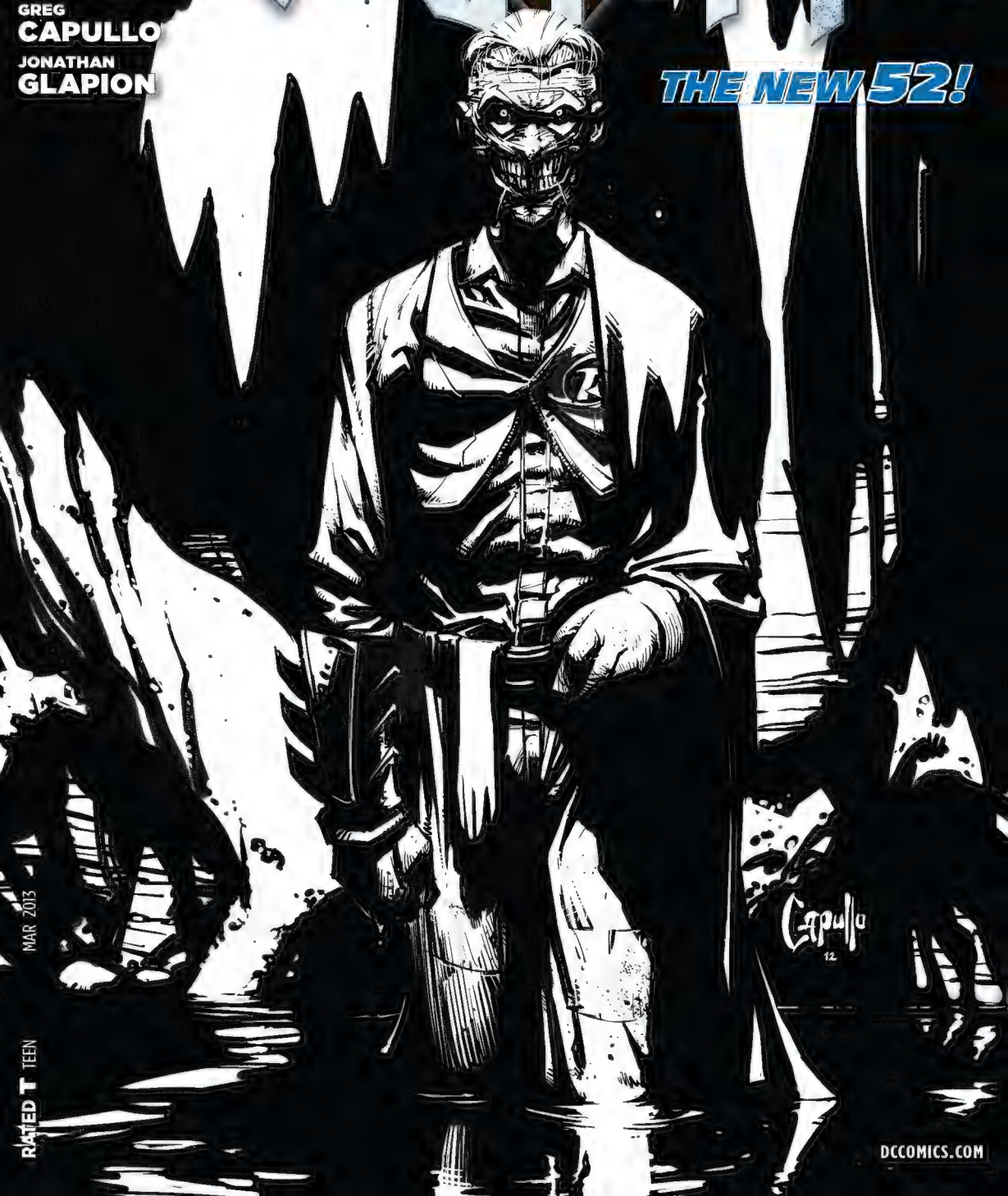
DEATH OF THE FAMILY

16

# BATMAN

SCOTT  
SNYDER  
GREG  
CAPULLO  
JONATHAN  
GLAPION

THE NEW 52!



MAR 2013

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM





DC  
COMICS™

**DEATH OF THE FAMILY**

**16**

# BATMAN

SCOTT  
**SNYDER**  
GREG  
**CAPULLO**  
JONATHAN  
**GLAPION**

**THE NEW 52!**



Capullo  
12  
+fco

MAR 2013

RATED **T** TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM





DC  
COMICS™

DEATH OF THE FAMILY

16

# BATMAN AND ROBIN

THE NEW 52!

PETER J.  
**TOMASI**  
PAT  
**GLEASON**  
MICK  
**GRAY**  
KEITH  
**CHAMPAGNE**

**MADNESS  
RUNS THE  
FAMILY!**

MAR 2013

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM



No. 16

Batman  
**DETECTIVE**  
COMICS



DC  
COMICS

**THE NEW 52!**







DC  
COMICS™

16

DEATH OF THE FAMILY

Batman®  
**DETECTIVE**  
comics®

THE NEW 52!

JOHN  
LAYMAN  
JASON  
FABOK

MAR 2013

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM





DC  
COMICS™

16

DEATH OF THE FAMILY

Batman®  
**DETECTIVE**  
comics®

THE NEW 52!

JOHN  
**LAYMAN**  
JASON  
**FABOK**

MAR 2013

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM